

Hafa Adai!

Shelters start to fill in Guam as territory braces for Mawar. **PAGE 2**
'IPI crane No. 5, unused since Dec. 2020, poses a threat' **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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READY FOR MAWAR

U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor's 45-foot Response Boat Mediums are hauled out and attached to heavy weather tie-downs on May 21, 2023, ahead of the arrival of Typhoon Mawar. Tropical-storm-force winds are anticipated to hit Guam on May 23 and continue through early May 25, with heavy rainfall throughout the week.

U.S. COAST GUARD/CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Mawar now a super typhoon

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Typhoon Mawar has progressed quickly in the last 24 hours and is now expected to pass near Guam as a super typhoon, with damaging maximum sustained winds of 155 miles-per-hour and crawling along at just 8 mph.

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
129

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, Mawar progressed into a Category 4 typhoon yesterday and continues to intensify as it passes through the region.

Typhoon warning remains in effect for Guam and Rota. Damaging winds of 39 mph or more are expected late yesterday evening, with the onset

See **MAWAR** on Page 4



Biden OKs pre-landfall emergency declaration

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

President Joe Biden approved yesterday the request of Gov. Arnold

I. Palacios for the declaration of a pre-landfall emergency in the CNMI in response to the approaching Super Typhoon Mawar. Biden declared yesterday

See **BIDEN** on Page 4

Price freeze is declared

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios declared yesterday a price freeze in the CNMI on gasoline, all foods, bottled water, beverages, ice, all clothing, and other

items as the CNMI braces for Typhoon Mawar.

Palacios declared the price freeze pursuant to a declaration of significant emergency and state of major disaster he issued Monday and as per the

See **PRICE** on Page 4

Animal clinic postponed

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER

The animal clinic that was scheduled to start yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido has been postponed due

to Super Typhoon Mawar's entrance into the region.

The Saipan Humane Society has rescheduled those who had a slot for yesterday and today and has advised them to check their emails

See **ANIMAL** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Dolphin Battalion of Marianas High School holds its 5th Annual Cadet Military Ball.

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NATION

President Joe Biden's decision to allow allies to train Ukrainian forces came after months.

PAGE 12



GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Preppy and New Traditional elements make for a perfect and lovely combination.

PAGE 14



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



Residents prepare for Typhoon Mawar's approach Monday, May 22, 2023, in Tamuning, Guam.

Local

Shelters start to fill in Guam as territory braces for Mawar

HONOLULU (AP)—Authorities in Guam warned anyone not living in a fully concrete house to head to safety elsewhere and emergency shelters began to fill as residents braced for Typhoon Mawar, a powerful storm that could deliver the biggest hit in two decades to the U.S. territory in the Pacific.

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero urged residents in a YouTube message to remain calm and prepare for Mawar, which the

weather service said could hit the southern part of Guam around midday Wednesday. She ordered the National Guard to help those in low-lying areas evacuate ahead of the storm as residents stocked up on jugs of water and generators.

“Current forecasts are not favorable to our island,” she said. “We are at the crosshairs of Typhoon Mawar. Take action now, stay calm, stay informed and stay safe.”

If Guam doesn’t take a direct hit, it will be very close, said Patrick Doll, the lead meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Tiy-an, Guam.

The center of the Category 3 storm was about 195 miles (313.8 kilometers) southeast of Guam on Tuesday, and moving northwest at 9 to 10 mph (14.4 to 16 kph) toward Guam, according to the weather service.

It was expected to arrive as a 140 mph (225 kph) Category 4 typhoon, weather officials said. Winds could reach up to 150 mph (241

kph), Guerrero said in her video message.

The typhoon could cause “extensive damage,” Doll told The Associated Press.

The governor said she would place Guam essentially in a lockdown effective 1 p.m. Tuesday and those in low-lying areas needed to leave by 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Rain from the storm’s outer bands was falling Tuesday..

A storm surge of 6 to 10 feet (1.82 to 3 meters) above the normal high tide was expected and could reach up to 15 feet (4.6 meters). Surf was expected to build sharply in the next day or two along south- and east-facing reefs, with dangerous surf of 20 to 25 feet (6 to 7.6 meters) Tuesday afternoon into Wednesday, the weather service said.

At the island’s grocery and hardware stores Monday, people were leaving with shopping carts full of canned goods, cases of water and generators, the Pacific Daily News reported.

The Rev. Francis X. Hezel, a Jesuit priest and assistant pastor at Santa Barbara Church in Dededo, was trying to visit people at the hospital before it closed to visitors Tuesday.

See SHELTERS on Page 4

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS



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Saipan Tribune
THE ISLAND'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

KHS Interact strives for positive impact

As they close school year 2022-23, members of the Kagman High School's Interact Club remembers some of their community efforts in the past months, listing some of their notable accomplishments in a news release last week.

Despite being a smaller Interact club composed of just 25 active members, the KHS Interact Club has been making a significant impact on their community, donating nearly \$2,000 to different organizations, three of which include the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Boonie Babies, and PolioPlus.

Since October 2022, the club has organized and participated in 11 events throughout the year to raise funds for various organizations. The club was able to raise \$800 for animal advocate Boonie Babies, \$500 for PolioPlus, and \$100 for CCA.

Grace Keilbach who is a co-founder of Boonie Babies, is grateful to the club. “Part of Boonie Babies’ mission is to share our passion for animals with others and inspire them to get involved. We believe that the way we are going to change animal welfare on Saipan starts with the younger generation. Having the KHS Interact Club and other youth on island working hard to support our mission reminds us that change is happening and will continue to happen. We couldn’t be more impressed, proud, and excited to be working with more amazing, young, great minds and we look forward to continue mak-

ing the island a better place for all that call it home,” she said.

The club attributes their successes to the hard work and dedication of not only the members and officers, but also their advisers, Maria Ornes, Celina Biado, Jolene Aguon, and David Bucher.

The club’s officer—president Lee Camacho, vice president Richard Lacson, secretary Akiya Baetiong, treasurer Camille Quitugua, historian Guinaiya Ogunoro, parliamentarian Iyana San Nicolas, and community Service director Lisa Lin—are also credited with the club's success, with their commitment and leadership being a driving force behind the club's achievements.

“I am extremely proud of how much the club has grown. We’ve had many new members join and it’s been a fun time. The accomplishments that we strived for and created, couldn’t have been done without the help of everyone,” said Camacho.

The club looks forward to welcoming new officers this incoming school year and continuing their work to make a positive impact on the community. Through their efforts, the Kagman High School Interact Club hopes to be a shining example of the power of young people, no matter how small, to make a difference in the world.

For more information about the Kagman High School Interact Club, contact the @Kagman.Interact.Club on Instagram. *(Crystal Marino)*

'IPI crane No. 5, unused since Dec. 2020, poses a threat'

» **DPW temporarily closes road between IPI building, Joeten Hafa Adai**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's tower crane No. 5 atop the unfin-

ished casino resort project poses an imminent threat to public safety due to Typhoon Mawar since it has not been used since December 2020, according to Department of Public Works Secretary Ray N. Yumul yesterday.



Yumul

The condition of the crane, which looms over Hibiscus Street in Garapan between IPI casino/

resort building and Joeten Hafa Adai, prompted DPW to close the street temporarily, starting yesterday at 4pm, for safety reasons.

Yumul said the road closure will remain in place until further notice.

The DPW secretary said the property access to Hibiscus Street will be maintained at all times for Joeten



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Public Works personnel temporarily close Hibiscus Street between Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino/resort building and Joeten Hafa Adai in Garapan yesterday afternoon due to the imminent threat of Typhoon Mawar.

Hodson opposes preliminary hearing bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawyer Charity Hodson is strongly opposed to a bill that intends to amend procedures for a preliminary hearing in a criminal case, saying the proposed bill, House Bill 23-42, undermines the constitutional principle of innocent until proven guilty.



Hodson

CNMI Chief Solicitor Robert Glass, however, defends the legislation, saying what this bill does is it takes the initial case in the CNMI Supreme Court, which held that there is no constitutional right to a preliminary hearing.

Preliminary examination refers to court's determination whether there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed and that the accused committed it.

Hodson and Glass shared their opposing opinions on the bill during the public hearing on the legislation last week by the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee. The committee did not act on the bill to allow Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig and other lawyers to comment on the legislation.

Hodson said the bill seeks to remove preliminary hearings altogether if an information has already been filed, or a court has reviewed an affidavit

for probable cause for arrest.

"Why? What is the current need to upset the process already in place?" Hodson asked.

She asserted that preliminary hearings serve an important safeguard in the CNMI against potential miscarriages of justice by ensuring that there is a sufficient evidence to proceed to trial.

She said eliminating these hearings undermines the principle of innocent until proven guilty and increases the risk of wrongful conviction.

She said preliminary hearings provide an opportunity for judicial oversight, allowing justice to assess the credibility of evidence and evaluate the strength of the prosecution's case. Hodson said the bill does not amend or clarify procedures, but instead muddles them.

She said removing the stage from the criminal justice process diminishes the roles of judges and concentrates power solely in the hands of prosecutors. She asserts that preliminary hearings act as a check on prosecutorial discretion.

Hodson said preliminary hearings should provide an opportunity for defense attorneys to challenge the sufficiency of evidence and present arguments for the dismissal or

reduction of charges.

As a defense attorney, Hodson said, she had been in court before where a defendant was being charged with various crimes. Yet when it came time for the prosecution to actually submit any kind of evidence in support of them, it turns out that several of those charges have no evidence, she said.

"And so instead, without a preliminary hearing, a defendant would be held to charge for all of these crimes for which there is no evidence. That's unjust," the lawyer said.

Lastly, Hodson said, without preliminary hearings to filter weak cases, trial courts would face a significant increase in cases that could possibly overload the system, cause delays and potentially hinder the resolution of more serious cases.

In defending the bill, Glass said the constitutional right is that probable cause found by the judge.

"That is done through warrants. And that is done through affidavits of probable cause, which is what we call Rule 4 or Rule 5. They are signed by judges. That is probable cause," Glass said.

He said that is a judge looking at things and coming to the conclusion that there's enough evidence to support probable cause.



Glass

Budget hearings for DPW, DOC postponed due to typhoon

The Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives has postponed the hearings for the budgets of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Corrections as a precautionary measure due to Typhoon Mawar.

As this developed, Senate Judiciary, Government and Law Committee chair Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) also announced yesterday the postponement of their meeting scheduled for today, Wednesday.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) informed committee members that the budget hearings for DPW scheduled today, Wednesday, and for DOC tomorrow, Thursday, are postponed until further notice.

Yumul said the official budget hearing notice and agenda will be forthcoming with the new schedule date.

Babauta notified all government employees and private citizens that the meeting scheduled for today, Wednesday,

day, is cancelled until further notice. Among the agenda of the meeting is Senate Bill 23-19 that seeks to remove the payment of land compensation judgements by the Department of Public Lands.

Others on the agenda is Senate Legislative Initiative 23-01 that proposes to amend Article 11, Section 6 of the NMI Constitution to ensure that transferred accrued interest on the investment proceeds is reserved for the benefit of Northern Marianas descents. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



Yumul



Babauta

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS FOR CUC TINIAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-015, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 12, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 22, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Evelyn Manglona, CUC Tinian Resident Manager, via email evelyn.manglona@cucgov.org, Louella Mundo, CUC Warehouse Technician via email louella.mundo@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Closures, cancellations, other advisories

United flights cancelations
United Airlines announced yesterday that all flights for May 24, 2023, are canceled. United has issued a travel waiver for all Guam, Saipan, and Micronesia flights scheduled between May 22 and 24. Most of the afternoon flights scheduled for yesterday, May 23, were also canceled.

The United City Ticket Office in Guam will be closed today, May 24. It was partially open from 9am to 1pm yesterday to assist customers.

United customers who are scheduled to depart on May 24 are encouraged to check united.com or the United app for the most current flight information or to reschedule their flights as a result of Typhoon Mawar. Customers can contact United Reservations at 1-800-864-8331 for assistance. *(PR)*

NMI Judiciary facilities closed
As of May 22, 2023, at 1pm, the NMI Supreme Court ordered that the following Judiciary facilities to closed

SHELTERS

From Page 2

Before hitting the road, he said he had trouble finding someone to help him put air in his tires because everyone was busy readying their homes to withstand the storm.

“I live in a rectory,” he said. “I’m just closing the windows hoping that the gusts don’t bash them in. Praying for the best, I guess.”

ANIMAL

From Page 1

for further instructions. The rescheduled dates will vary as they had to spread them out, but it will all take place in the next few weeks.

They hope to start it up tomorrow, Thursday, but it all depends on the weather. The four-a-day-clinic will still last until June 13.

The services include spay and neuter for dogs and female cats at \$75 and \$50 for male cats; Parvovirus vaccinations and deworming at \$20; microchipping

BIDEN

From Page 1

morning that an emergency exists in the CNMI through a Presidential Emergency Declaration, which frees up federal resources that could be tapped to assist the CNMI.

Through the declaration, Biden ordered that federal assistance be used to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts. The President’s action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, to coordinate all disaster relief efforts with the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized

to the public on May 23, 2023, and May 24, 2023:

- Guma’ Hustisia (Saipan)
- Kotten Tinian (Tinian)
- Centron Hustisia (Rota)
- Commonwealth Recorder’s Office (Saipan) *(PR)*

MCS cancels classes
Mount Carmel School canceled its classes yesterday, May 23, 2023, in response to the Office of the Governor maintaining Tropical Storm Condition II for Saipan and Tinian.

The resumption of classes with a revised exam week bell schedule will be announced on the school’s media platforms after the Office of the Governor announces the “all clear.”

Official information from Mount Carmel School will be made available through the following mediums:

- MCS website at www.mount-carmelsaipan.com
- MCS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mtcarmelcnmi/
- MCS Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/mcsknights/>

Officials warned residents who aren’t in fully concrete structures to consider moving for safety. Many homes are made of wood and tin.

“The triple threat of cat 4 typhoon force winds, torrential rains and life-threatening storm surge are all expected for Guam and Rota,” the weather service said in a Tuesday morning update.

Rota, an island in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, was also under a ty-

phoon warning, Doll said. Tinian and Saipan, in the northern Marianas, were under tropical storm warnings.

Some people in those areas are still in temporary shelters or tents after Category 5 Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, Doll noted.

“Guam takes a Category 4 or 5 hit every five to seven years. Mother Nature has spared us as of late,” Doll said, adding that the last direct hit was in 2002. “So we are way overdue.”

to meet the needs of the community. We are a small team of three volunteers working our hardest to ensure every patient is seen. However, we do request patience and understanding from our clients as we are not always available to answer every message or phone call quickly. We do have to balance our other responsibilities and jobs until SHS grows to a point where we can be employed, and have employees.”

to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency.

FEMA representative Brian Beck said that an Incident Management Assistance team of over 50 individuals has been deployed to Guam in response to Super Typhoon Mawar emergency efforts. These resources will then be mobilized to the CNMI either before or after Mawar makes landfall, thanks to Biden’s declaration.

In addition, through the declaration, Beck said the Department of Defense is now able to provide assistance to the CNMI.

Benigno B. Ruiz of FEMA has been appointed to coordinate federal recovery operations in the CNMI.

Palacios expressed gratitude for Biden’s swift action to his request. “We are thankful to President Biden, the U.S. Department of Homeland

sknights/
■ MCS Twitter feed @MCS_KNIGHTS or https://twitter.com/MCS_KNIGHTS
■ News outlets including radio stations *(PR)*

Settlement Fund office temporarily closed
The Settlement Fund office will be temporarily closed today, May 24, 2023, due to impending Typhoon Mawar. The Fund office was closed beginning at 12pm yesterday, May 23, 2023.

The Fund will resume its operations on Thursday, May 25, 2023, and will be available to assist members by telephone, fax, or email between 8am and 5pm.

Contact the Settlement Fund at:

- Tel: (670) 322-3863
- Fax: (670) 664-8080
- Email: info@nmisf.com *(PR)*

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

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Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for their quick response to the CNMI’s request for an emergency declaration. The presidential declaration expands the ongoing and recovery efforts in response to Typhoon Mawar, including the deployment of additional resources to Rota, which is located in a more direct path of the storm,” he said.

The request for the pre-landfall emergency declaration was signed by Palacios last Monday in consultation with CNMI’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office.

“We are taking other proactive measures to help mobilize additional resources in this storm. The CNMI’s resilience has grown and expanded, having experienced other typhoons these past few years. Nonetheless, we want to maximize and deploy all assistance available to our community as they face yet another natural disaster,” said Palacios.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Stay informed of weather updates, developments through the following:

- NOAA National Weather Service <https://www.weather.gov/gum/activeHazards>
- Joint Typhoon Warning Center <http://bit.ly/2AOBQI4>
- CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/>
- CNMI Office of the Governor Website: <https://governor.gov.mp/>
- CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cnmigovernor>
- NWS Website: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>
- NWS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/>
- Joint Typhoon Warning Center Website: <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

MAWAR

From Page 1

of typhoon force winds forecast for this morning.

Tropical Storm Warning remains in effect for Saipan and Tinian. Damaging winds of 39 mph or more were expected last night into this morning.

Typhoon Watch remains in effect for Saipan and Tinian. Typhoon force winds are possible if the westward turn of Mawar is delayed.

Forecasts from the National Weather Service state that Mawar, which was about a Category 2 typhoon last Monday afternoon, quickly evolved into a Category 4 typhoon early yesterday morning and continues to intensify.

Based on the Saffir-Simpson scale (the scale used by U.S. meteorological organizations to determine the intensity of typhoons and hurricanes), a Category 4 typhoon brings maximum sustained winds of 130 mph to 156 mph.

The Saffir-Simpson scale states that under this category, catastrophic damage will occur as well-built framed homes can sustain severe

PRICE

From Page 1

Consumer Disaster Price Freeze Act.

In his Executive Order 2023-001, the governor said the price freeze shall last until rescinded, or until the declarations of emergency or disaster are terminated, whichever occurs first.

Prices are also frozen on the following items:

- Kerosene, diesel fuel, natural gas, other chemical fuels;
- Flashlights, lamps, lanterns, candles, light bulbs, and other means of illumination;
- Generators, cables, wire, and electrical batteries;
- All appliances used in the storage and/or preparation of food such as stoves, barbecue grills, ovens, refrigerators, and coolers;
- Construction tools used for ground clearing or home repairs such as saws, machetes, hammers, drills, shovels, rakes, and brooms; and
- All bedding items such as pillows, futons, and blankets.

Because of the increasing threat of Typhoon Mawar, Palacios also ordered the closure of all government offices on Saipan and Tinian effective yesterday at 12:30pm until the “all clear” declaration is announced.

The governor said Typhoon Condition 2 was announced for Rota

damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed.

As a comparison, Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 was a Category 5 typhoon with maximum sustained winds of over 157 mph.

As of 8pm last night, Super Typhoon Mawar was intensifying and continues to move north at 8 mph. It is expected to make a turn toward the northwest with little change in forward speed over the next 24 hours.

Super Typhoon Mawar is anticipated to strengthen and bring strong winds and rainfall to the Marianas in the next 12 hours.

Due to its progress, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios upgraded the declaration for Rota to Typhoon Condition I and declared Tropical Storm Condition I for the islands of Saipan, and Tinian.

Government offices closed
Effective 12:30pm yesterday, all government offices on Saipan and Tinian were closed and will remain closed until an “all clear” declaration is announced.

Rota offices have been closed since last Monday.

Monday and that government offices there will remain closed.

He advised non-critical government employees to go home, take care of their families, continue to secure their belongings, and finalize preparations for heavy rainfall and increasing wind speeds through the remainder of the week.

The Office of the Attorney General encourages consumers to report incidents of price gouging.

To assist with the investigation of price gouging, affected consumers should submit a written complaint to the OAG, along with copies of all receipts, invoices, or other documents associated with the complained-of transaction. Consumers should save all receipts, invoices, and other documents related to price gouging. When submitting a complaint to the OAG, consumers should submit copies of any supporting documents and retain the originals for their own records.

Complaint forms may be obtained at www.cnmioag.org under the Consumer Protection section or in person at the Civil Division on Capitol Hill from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, or via email by sending a request to consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org.

Inquiries regarding consumer protection complaints should be directed to assistant attorney general Hunter Hunt at consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org or (670) 237-7500.

EXPANDED PROTECTIONS AROUND PACIFIC REMOTE ISLANDS

Report: Expansion will have no effect on industrial fishing

HONOLULU, Hawai'i—A new study shows, despite claims otherwise, that industrial fishing is not likely to be impacted by expanded protections around the Pacific Remote Islands. A team of interdisciplinary scientists at the Environmental Markets Lab, or emLabm at the University of California Santa Barbara used publicly available

AIS vessel monitoring data from Global Fishing Watch and catch data reported by the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission to analyze current and historical fishing dynamics in and around the PRI.

Findings demonstrate that virtually no industrial fishing is taking place in the area of a new marine national sanctu-

ary in the region, as proposed by the PRI Coalition. These findings strongly suggest that if implemented, the new sanctuary would likely have little, if any, effect on fishing effort or catch, and would not impact existing practices of the industrial scale U.S. purse seine fleet and cannery based in American Samoa. The data shows that from 2013-2022:

■ The U.S. purse seine and U.S. longline fleets spent less than half of a percent of their fishing effort inside the proposed protected area.

■ Catch data reported by WCPFC shows a tenth of a percent of the U.S. purse seine fleet catch came from within the proposed sanctuary area.

■ U.S. purse seine vessels landing in Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa only spent 2.65% of their total fishing effort in the proposed sanctuary area.

■ U.S. longline vessels landing in Pago Pago Harbor spent 0% of their total effort in the proposed sanctuary area.

Further, over the last five years, almost 94% of fishing effort by the U.S. purse seine fleet landing in Pago Pago occurs in the high seas or within non-U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. More than 98% of the U.S. longline fleet's effort landing in Pago Pago primarily occurs within the American Samoa EEZ area.

Another study, published in Science magazine, shows that marine protected areas can actually improve fishing beyond their boundaries. According to that report, tuna fisheries near Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument have experienced a 54% increase in catch since the monument was expanded in 2016 because of

spillover of healthy tuna populations within the protected area.

"These studies show that marine protected areas work," said PRI Coalition member Rick Gaffney. "The fishing industry should embrace these marine protected areas because the science and numbers show that they help, not hinder, their fishing efforts."

The proposed sanctuary would encompass the existing Pacific Remote Islands and extend to the full limit of the U.S. EEZ (200 nautical miles) around Howland and Baker Islands and Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atoll. It would conserve 777,000 square miles, creating the world's largest protected ocean area with the goal of not only protecting the rare marine life forms in and around the PRI, but also preserving and perpetuating the cultural and historic significance of the area for so many Indigenous Pacific Islanders.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is currently seeking public comments as it considers whether to designate a national marine sanctuary in and around the PRI. The nomination calls for the sanctuary area to honor the cultural and historical legacy of these islands and atolls, preserve the area as an intact cultural voyaging seascape, and protect abundant populations of wild-

life such as coral, fish, sharks, turtles, rays, whales, dolphins, birds, and other important marine ocean species in the face of threats like deep-sea mining, and climate change, and large-scale industrial fishing.

The next in-person meeting will take place in Pago Pago, American Samoa on May 24. Two additional virtual meetings have been scheduled on May 25/26 and May 31/June 1, depending on the time zone. Public comments will be accepted virtually, online, or by mail through June 2, 2023. Additional information on upcoming meeting locations and how to submit comments online or by mail, can be found here.

For more information, visit protectPRI.com.

About the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition

In 2014, the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition formed to protect the cultural, natural, and historical legacy of these special islands, atolls, and reefs. Our diverse network includes elders, fishers, educators, cultural practitioners, non-profits, community groups, scientists, religious organizations, veterans, and many others across the Pacific and beyond. We are a coalition brought together by a love for the ocean that connects and sustains us. (PR)

\$4,279,808 in FY2023 grants to benefit Insular Areas

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced \$4,279,808 in fiscal year 2023 Technical Assistance Program grant funding that will support and benefit a variety of programs including healthcare for populations from the nuclear-affected atolls in the Marshall Islands, youth education and outreach, judicial training, natural resource conservation, and weather forecasting for climate change resilience in the Pacific Insular Areas.

"We are pleased to support these cross-cutting programs that touch on a wide variety of issues that are important to the Insular Areas," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "The funding this year will support health programs for nuclear-affected populations, youth education, judicial training, weather forecasting for climate change resilience, natural resource conservation, and more."

Technical Assistance Program grant awards totaling \$4,279,808 will be awarded to Insular Areas governments or nonprofit organizations as follow, with one project being funded in collaboration with the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit as follows.

Insular Area governments

■ \$1,302,077 to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of Health and Human Services for the Section 177 Health Care 4 Atolls Program. The above figure sup-

plements the first half of FY 2023 funding in the amount of \$938,148 that was awarded in February for a grand total of \$2,240,225 for the Section 177 Health Care 4 Atolls Program in FY 2023.

■ \$378,078 to the Government of Guam to fund travel of territorial staff to the Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshops (TCIW) for 2023 and 2024. This funding will support travel costs for government officials from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to the TCIW. The 2023 TCIW was held in Honolulu from March 8 to 12, 2023.

Nonprofit organizations

■ \$631,590 to the Prior Service Trust Fund Benefit Payments Program for retired employees of the former Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. PSTF beneficiaries hail from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

■ \$520,977 to the Junior State of America Foundation for the Insular Areas Youth Civic Education Program for students from all the Insular Areas.

■ \$497,882 to the Pacific Mission Aviation's Helping Our Pacific Economy pro-

gram to fund an aircraft and hangar maintenance and repair program on Yap and Palau as well as provide equipment for repair of airstrips on Woleai and Fais islands in Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia.

■ \$250,000 to We Are Oceania in Honolulu for the Youth Empowerment Center project to support students from the freely associated states residing in Hawai'i.

■ \$227,542 to the University of Hawai'i Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System for the Dynamical Downscaling for El Niño Events for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and for Improved Atmospheric Forecasts for the Pacific Insular Areas using state-of-the-art data assimilation.

■ \$60,480 to the Tāno Tāsi yan Todu organization for projects that link science and conservation to the community, elevate indigenous knowledge and language on science and conservation and will fund a Marianas Islands Conservation Conference in 2024 and 2025.

Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit

■ \$411,182 will be provided through a Reimbursable Support Agreement to the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit to fund the Pacific Islands Judicial Education Programs in the Pacific Territories and Palau. (IOA)

US to sign new security pact with PNG amid competition with China

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—The United States is scheduled to sign a new security pact with Papua New Guinea on Monday as it competes with China for influence in the Pacific.

Papua New Guinea's location just north of Australia makes it strategically significant. It was the site of fierce battles during World War II, and with a population of nearly 10 million

people, it's the most populous Pacific island nation.

The State Department said the new agreement would provide a framework to help improve security cooperation, enhance the capacity of Papua New Guinea's defense force and increase regional stability.

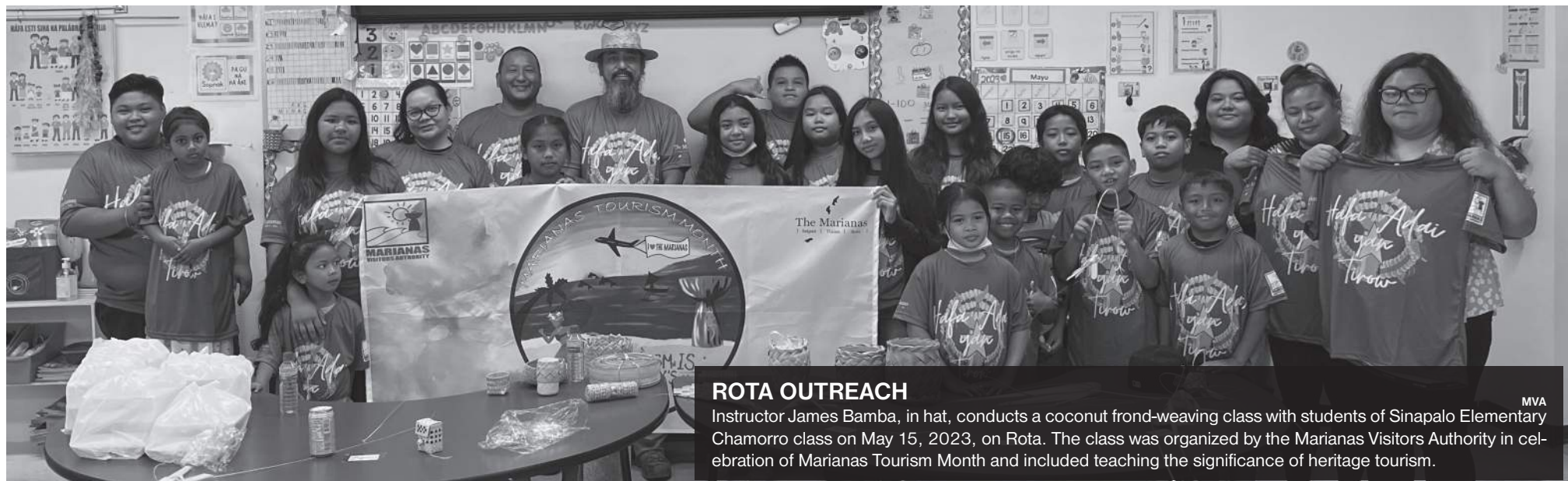
At a breakfast meeting, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape said his country faced significant security challenges, from skirmishes within the country to illegal fishing boats that lit up the night

like skyscrapers.

"We have our internal security as well as our sovereignty security issues," Marape said. "We're stepping up on that front to make sure our borders are secure."

But the agreement sparked student protests in the second-largest city, Lae. And many in the Pacific are concerned about the increasing militarization of the region.

Last year, nearby Solomon Islands signed its own security pact with China.



ROTA OUTREACH

Instructor James Bamba, in hat, conducts a coconut frond-weaving class with students of Sinapalo Elementary Chamorro class on May 15, 2023, on Rota. The class was organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority in celebration of Marianas Tourism Month and included teaching the significance of heritage tourism.

MVA

UOG celebrates overcoming hurdles; 3 tie for valedictorian

Perseverance and resilience became a common thread as speakers took the stage in the Fañomnākan 2023 Commencement celebrating the achievements of 303 graduates last Sunday, May 21, at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.

UOG conferred 237 bachelor's degrees and 66 master's degrees in its Fañomnākan semester, producing the latest batch of future nurses, teachers, business and public administration professionals, social workers, scientists, artists, engineers, and others.

Three tied for valedictorian, with all three achieving 4.0 in their academic ranking. Twins Hunter Greigh Aquino Orland and Madison Gage Aquino Orland, both Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts graduates, shared the co-valedictorian honor with Britney Joy Babasa Sison, who achieved a Bachelor of Science dual degree in Chemistry and Biology.

Of the three co-valedictorians, Sison gave the valedictory speech after the UOG administration took into consideration the totality of her achievements, including her dual degree. Sison also discovered potentially undocumented algae in mud samples from Palau, Yap, Pohnpei, and the Marshall Islands.

She aims to become a physician-scientist one day. The Orland twins plan to showcase their works of art through exhibits and shows.

"Perseverance requires patience, dedication, and belief in our abilities," Sison said in her commencement speech, describing the challenges she and other students overcame during and after the pandemic's shift to remote learning and transition back to in-person classes.

"We must rise after every fall, push through obstacles, and keep moving forward—even when uncertainty looms," she added. "Remember that we are equipped with the strength to persevere through any challenge that comes our way."

'Lived in the moment'

The commencement keynote speaker, Fleurdeliza de Peralta, an engineer who spent most of her childhood in Guam and whose professional experience spans nuclear energy safety, renewable energy, and cyber security, encouraged the new

graduates to continue to remain curious. De Peralta is a senior adviser in the Risk and Environmental Assessment Group, Energy and Environment Directorate, at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

She shared her journey from being a student who gave her first commencement speech at the former Simon Sanchez Middle School to earning a mechanical engineering degree from the University of California Los Angeles, initially focusing on nuclear energy and then transitioning to renewable energy and, more recently, cyber security. For 25 years, she owned and ran a business that provided consulting work to help keep nuclear power plants safe.

There's an emphasis on becoming more resilient these days, she said, including being able to harness renewable energy resources to produce power, and it's particularly important for an island community like Guam.

De Peralta expressed gratitude to Guam where she grew up and learned the importance of making the best out of limited resources on the island and learning to appreciate simple joys and values that a small island community can offer.

She encouraged the graduates to open their minds to a host of possibilities, and to try new things.

"I took opportunities when they came—and lived in the moment," she said.

When things don't work out as planned, she said to the new graduates, they can always change their direction.

Krise recognizes Guam, UOG leaderships

UOG president Thomas W. Krise also spoke about resiliency, particularly during the pandemic that tested the UOG community and the broader Guam community. He presented the President's Medal to Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio for leading Guam through the COVID-19 crisis. "[They] have not only supported UOG in every possible way, but they've also led Guam through the challenging years, through the pandemic, economic recession, and international events."

Krise also recognized two UOG administrators—Cathleen



UOG
Britney Joy Babasa Sison, left, who achieved a Bachelor of Science dual degree in Chemistry and Biology, shares co-valedictorian honor with twins Hunter Greigh Aquino Orland and Madison Gage Aquino Orland.

Moore-Linn and Carlos R. Taitano—with Distinguished Service Medals, the highest award available from the university to its employees, for their exemplary service to UOG and its mission of *Ina, Deskubre, Setbe* (Enlightenment, Discovery and Service).

Krise recognized Moore-Linn, executive director of the Research Corporation of the University of Guam, for her role in bringing recognition to UOG as one of the top universities in the nation to receive federal research funding.

Taitano, director of Global Learning and Engagement, received recognition for leading through partnerships and engagement with various agencies, organizations, and institutions in his role as one of UOG's main coordinators in Guam's response to the pandemic.

Krise bestowed Baskas Mark with the honorary degree of Master of Micronesian and Traditional Knowledge. Mark is recognized in the Western Pacific as a Rapiniwog—grandmaster navigator in traditional seafaring—and is originally from Polowat Atoll, Chuuk State, in the Federated States of Micronesia.

For more information and to view the recording of the Fañomnākan 2023 Commencement Ceremony, visit: <https://www.uog.edu/commencements/fanomnakan-2023/> (UOG)



UOG
Commencement speaker Fleurdeliza de Peralta, an expert in nuclear power, renewable energy and cyber security, encourages the new graduates to keep their curiosity.



UOG
The Fañomnākan 2023 Commencement on Sunday, May 21, celebrates the achievements of 303 graduates at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.



UOG
Commencement speaker Fleurdeliza de Peralta, an expert in nuclear power, renewable energy and cyber security, congratulates the three co-valedictorians Britney Joy Babasa Sison, and twins Hunter Greigh Aquino Orland and Madison Gage Aquino Orland.



UOG
Baskas Mark, a navigator in traditional seafaring, and a native of Polowat Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia, receives the honorary degree Master of Micronesian Traditional Knowledge.

\$2.52M FY2023 grants benefit US Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced \$2,528,951 in fiscal year 2023 Technical Assistance Program grant funding that will support and benefit the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"The funding this year will support many important needs for the U.S. Virgin Islands, such as emergency response, improving government processes, utilities training, sustainable water

resources, and youth mentoring on climate change and natural resources protection," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "We are especially pleased to be able to support the U.S. Virgin Islands in preparations for the commemoration of 175 years of emancipation."

Technical Assistance Program grant awards totaling \$2,528,951 will be awarded

to the territorial government or non-government organizations as follow, with one project being funded in collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation toward funding water resilience.

USVI territorial government

■ \$655,423 to the Fire Service for Emergency Response Vehicles

■ \$300,000 to the Bureau of Information Technology

for a Business Process Improvement Technology Solutions project

■ \$200,000 to the Office of the Governor to facilitate project programming for the Commemoration of 175 Years of Emancipation in the Virgin Islands

■ \$60,000 to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources for the National Historic Register Boundaries Update for the Catherineberg-Jockumsdahl-Herman

Farm District project

Nonprofit organizations

■ \$658,050 to the Virgin Islands Architecture Center for Built Heritage and Crafts, Inc. for the VIAC Capacity Building Initiative program

■ \$296,500 to the Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority for Water Distribution Training

■ \$62,010 to the Ocean Foundation for developing outreach programs and mentoring youth at the Sandy Point

National Wildlife Refuge.

Bureau of Reclamation

■ \$296,968 to the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation for a project with the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority to improve the Sustainability of Water Resources in a Changing Climate through Estimations of Groundwater Recharge on St. Croix.

More information about the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs can be found at www.doi.gov/oia. (OIA)



MHS Dolphin Battalion holds 5th Cadet Military Ball

The Dolphin Battalion of Marianas High School held its 5th Annual Cadet Military Ball last May 13, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

Held to introduce cadets to formal gatherings and activities, the occasion also saw MHS seniors and cadets being presented with medals and honors, and acknowledging the outgoing battalion leadership.

The ball also witnessed the change of command ceremony, with outgoing battalion commander cadet Lt. Col. Shaina Heart Dimalanta turning over the battalion to the incoming battalion commander, cadet Lt. Col. Vince Felipe Silva.

The ball got started with guests and cadets being welcomed by the Dolphin Battalion Saber Guard, after which they were ushered to their seats for the evening. Posting of the colors and opening remarks followed shortly after.



After the remarks, the current S1 and future battalion commander presented the continuous improvement plan for the next school year. Following the CIP was dinner. While getting dinner, the outgoing senior delivered their speeches. Raffles for various prizes also took place during dinner.

During the change of command ceremony, the battalion acknowledged the outgoing leadership and welcomed the new upcoming staff.

Awards were handed out to multiple cadets in the program who have shown outstanding leadership skills.

The battalion credits the success of the event to the Mili-



tary Ball Committee and Staff. "The Military Ball Committee labored tirelessly to convert the Taga Hall into a ballroom. ... The...turnout were outstanding. The school's

administration and battalion staff went above and beyond to ensure that the event went off without a hitch," said a news release about the event. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Tikked off: Montana's law banning TikTok won't do anything, but something must done regarding kids and social media

In an anti-China panic, Montana has banned one of the world's most popular social media apps. That's plain stupid—but rising concern about social media's effect on young people is the opposite of stupid.

It's true that TikTok's parent company is Chinese, and it's true that the Chinese Communist government has significant leverage over it. That's why TikTok is verboten on government devices in the U.S., as well as in the U.K., Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

But it verges on hysteria to say, as Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte does, that, "The Chinese Communist Party using TikTok to spy on Americans, violate their privacy, and collect their personal, private, and sensitive information is well-documented." What TikTok does with our personal, private and sensitive information is no different from what homegrown social media giants do with it.

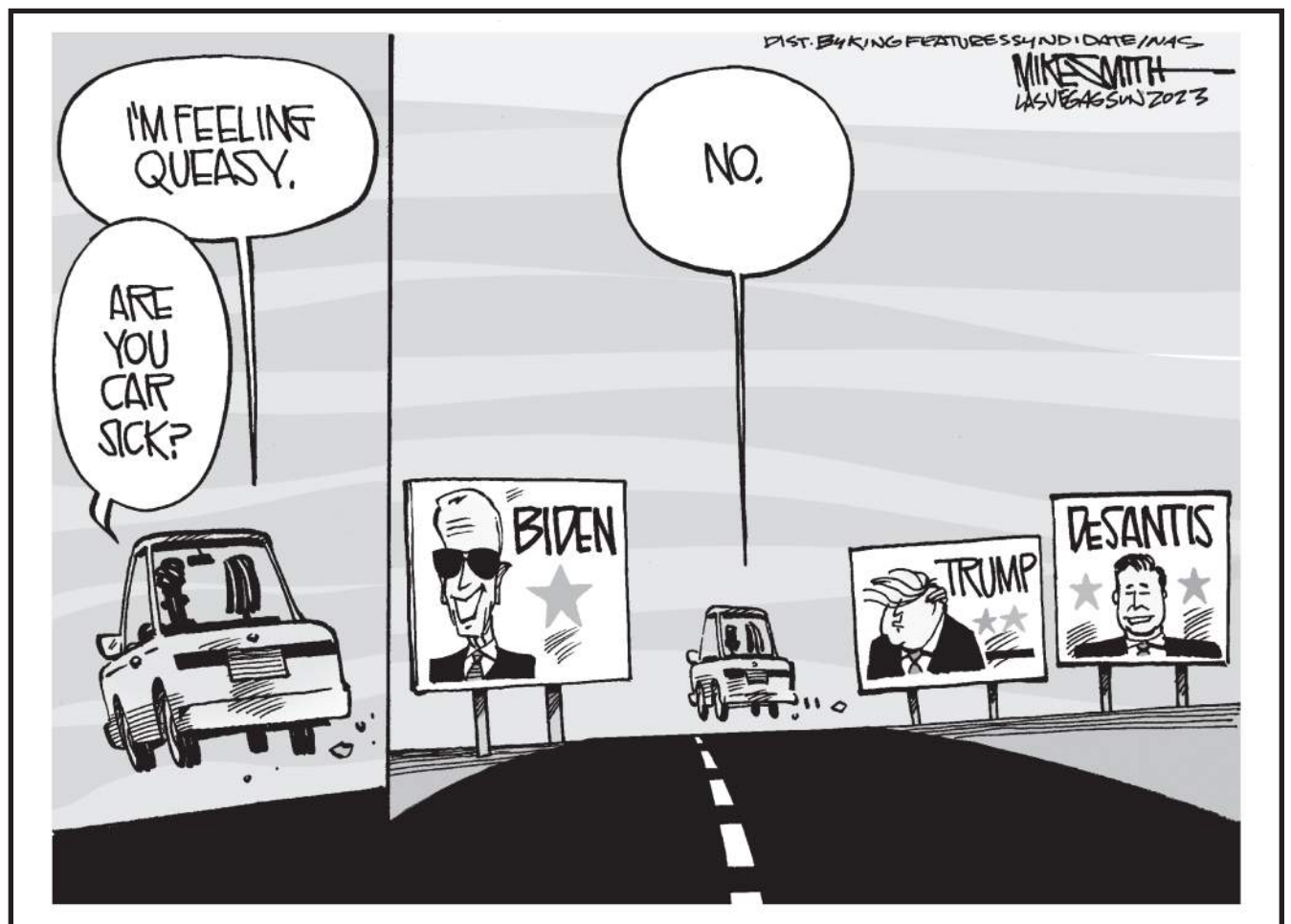
Speaking of those homegrown social media giants like Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and Twitter and countless smaller players, they, just like TikTok, are all vulnerable to credible claims that they've played a part in exacerbating depression and other psychological problems.

No doubt, social media has real benefits: young people can stay in touch, learn about things they never imagined, consume endless streams of fun and challenging and enriching cultural offerings. But we're only beginning to get our arms around its risks in disrupting teens' sleep, exposing them to bullying, elevating unrealistic body images and magnifying the endless craving for attention and approval that are already endemic to those fragile years.

A federal law passed in 1998, before any of them had taken over our world, makes the age of 13 the official, federally sanctioned gateway to the universe.

Why? No especially good reason. Over the decades, we've rethought the age of criminal responsibility, not to mention the age at which people can drink and buy guns and smoke. We don't need 50 different sets of rules for social media companies to navigate. Rather, while respecting parents' rights to parent, we should have a single thoughtful set of federal rules that keep kids safe and healthy.

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What we can learn from an earlier inflation-employment conundrum

America's unemployment now stands at a 54-year low of 3.4%, a useful reminder that our post-COVID economy is similar to the post-World War II economy of 1947-1949. Much like today, that generation faced a tricky combination of high inflation and low unemployment. Our predecessors brought inflation down without significantly breaking the economy. Should we follow the same roadmap?

In January 1948, the unemployment rate fell to, yes, 3.4%. Inflation raged, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) having hit 19% the previous April as war-time price controls came to an end. Many believed that the actions required to cool down the economy and defeat inflation would bring a recession. Nearly everyone remembered the pain of the Great Depression.

The economy was challenged by rapidly rising demand for houses, automobiles, and other consumer goods. These had been pushed to the side during the war, but with peace came demand, thanks to a huge buildup of wartime savings and good jobs and returning veterans going to work. Meanwhile, war-ravaged Europe and Asia were attempting to recover and rebuild. U.S. producers, including farmers, faced soaring demand and supply-chain challenges in getting goods where they needed to go.

Similarly, Americans today have purses still partly packed with stimulus money following the war against COVID and associated shutdowns. Shoppers are eager to replace the family clunker and move to better housing. But there are also supply-chain challenges and not enough workers to fill every job. Meanwhile, we still worry about inflation (though it's tumbled from 9.1% last June to a still-problematic 5.0% as of March).

Today, the debate centers each month on whether the Federal Reserve Board should again raise interest rates to throw cold water on inflation (and the economy), stand pat, or ease up. As yet, the near-universal desire to both meet the inflation challenge and avoid recession have not led to a presidential call for nationwide hearings or a White House conference devoted to finding a better path. Perhaps it's because we're understandably leery of more political infighting or of amateurish political pressure on the Fed.

But that's just what happened in 1948 when, prodded by President Harry Truman—a Democrat working with a Republican-controlled Congress—political leaders attempted to coordinate taxation, spending, regulatory and monetary policy to improve the situation. The effort included two special sessions of Congress to address inflation.

While Truman unsuccessfully pushed for price controls and

By BRUCE YANDLE
Tribune News Service

Bruce Yandle is a distinguished adjunct fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, dean emeritus of the Clemson College of Business and Behavioral Sciences, and a former executive director of the Federal Trade Commission.



there were other counterproductive and conflicting actions taken, largely coherent policies emerged considering the circumstances. These included tougher monetary policy with higher interest rates, increased taxes, and lower government spending (rather than the expensive stimulus we've been "given").

It was a bumpy road—maybe a case of muddling through—but inflation fell from 19.0% in January 1947 to 12.0% in June 1948 to only 1.26% by 1950. The victory involved a short, mild recession with a 1.7% fall in real GDP, but could not be called a case of breaking the economy to break inflation.

Truman, importantly, held to the Employment Act of 1946, which called for "maximum employment, production and purchasing power." The Act established the Council of Economic Advisers and the Joint Congressional Committee (the latter consisting of seven members each from the House and Senate), charged with monitoring economic activity. Unlike later presidents, Truman provided a report from the Council every six months, and each was first reviewed and criticized by the Joint Congressional Committee so that Congress might have its voice.

Many analysts today suggest that the Fed will keep tightening until something breaks and then will focus on repairing the economy. Perhaps this is the best we can hope for in such a politicized era where partisanship does not stop at the economy. But it's unfortunate that we don't try for Truman's more collaborative approach.

An independent Fed, which is protected to some degree against politics, will play its role. However, a special session of Congress devoted to finding the best way forward could offer reasoned recommendations and help get the government on the same page. And it might be a good idea to have the Joint Congressional Committee review and criticize the president's economic report and make those comments part of the now-annual Economic Report of the President.

A change, after all, might do us all some good.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A President Harris might even be good for our republic

If an increasingly possible scenario develops—a 2024 rematch between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump—age will be an issue. But not just Biden’s. Certainly, Biden is advanced in years. On Election Day 2024, he will be 81.

But Trump will be 78. And while Biden is trim, athletic and a reasonably responsible eater, Trump is overweight, exercise-averse and devoted to fried chicken and cheeseburgers. Imagine either of these men as president in 2025 and speculate on which one is more likely to live through a four-year term. It’s hard to say.

Therefore the vice presidential choice for both candidates is more important than usual.

The only thing certain about Trump’s running mate is that it won’t be his insufficiently loyal former vice president, Mike Pence, who appears to be mounting a weak run against Trump. Reportedly Marjorie Taylor Greene is a possibility as a running mate, as is Kari Lake, who refuses to concede her defeat in the race for Arizona’s governorship.

Both of these women are difficult to imagine as president, but a moderate Republican—man or woman—who would be willing to run with Trump may be hard to find.

In any case, the dubious assumption that Trump will live longer than Biden puts a focus on Kamala Harris, our current vice president and undoubtedly Biden’s running mate in 2024.

In 2020 Harris wasn’t a particularly strong candidate for president, and her two years as vice president have been undistinguished. A primary theme of the Republican campaign against Biden is already the idea that a vote for Biden is really a vote for an unqualified Harris.

But this sort of thinking goes wrong in at least three ways:

First, concern that any president won’t survive his entire term doesn’t give the Constitution enough credit. The presidency was designed to continue in the event of an unexpected vacancy, and the system has worked smoothly at least nine times. So we should not be afraid to elect a president who is old. That’s what the vice president is for.

Second, this isn’t fair to Kamala Harris. The vice president’s job is to be undistinguished, and Biden’s decision to task her with an intractable problem such as border security was always a recipe for failure. We actually have little idea

By **JOHN M. CRISP**
Tribune News Service

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what kind of president she would be.

For several years I’ve been unhurriedly reading my way through presidential biographies. I’m on number 39, Jimmy Carter; I haven’t skipped any, not even Millard Fillmore and Martin Van Buren.

One thing that I’ve learned is that trying to predict a president’s performance based on qualifications and record is a sketchy business. Chester Arthur and Harry Truman are good examples of undistinguished men who served creditably. Even Abraham Lincoln was just a hayseed lawyer from Illinois. In short, there’s no way of knowing how a president will perform. That includes Harris.

Finally, the Founders would probably be dismayed at the power and prominence of the modern presidency. A less prominent presence in the White House might be a healthy antidote for what has been called in recent years the “imperial presidency.” In short, a Harris presidency might even be good for our republic.

In any case, if you’re considering declining to vote for Biden because of the possibility of a President Harris, remember that a vote for Trump is a vote for his vice president, as well. I doubt that he will choose Marjorie Taylor Greene. Jewish space lasers and the notion of a “national divorce” might be too much, even for Trump.

But you can be certain that Trump’s VP pick will support the thoroughly debunked idea that the 2020 election was stolen and will demonstrate unalloyed loyalty to Trump’s most authoritarian impulses, including his suggestion in December that the “termination” of parts of the Constitution is sometimes called for.

Better to rely on a constitutional system that has worked for more than 230 years, even if it means a comparatively less powerful and accomplished president, than to accept a regime that has already demonstrated its contempt for democracy.

Taxpayer money shouldn’t support illegal Israeli settlements

By **CASSANDRA DIXON**
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

On March 7, 2023, I was walking with another international activist near Tuba village in Masafer Yatta, a group of villages at the southernmost end of the West Bank, when we were set upon by Israeli settlers from the nearby illegal outpost of Havat Ma’on. One settler chased my companion, wielding an iron bar, and another struck me from behind with a large stick, knocking me out, fracturing my skull and causing a bleed in my brain.

As a U.S. citizen with supporters here at home, I was able to get the State Department and Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., to press my case with Israel. As a result, the settler who hit me was arrested and charged with assault—though the odds of him being convicted or suffering more than a slap on the wrist are slim.

For Palestinians living in Masafer Yatta, such attacks are an almost-daily occurrence. Recently, Israeli airstrikes on Gaza have killed 34 Palestinians—including at least 13 civilians, seven of whom were children—and injured another 147 between May 9 and 13. But amid the destruction, a small crack has appeared in the United States’s decades-long commitment to funding the Israeli occupation of Palestinian areas and we should be doing all we can to widen it.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Rep. Jamaal Bowman, D-N.Y., joined 12 other lawmakers to call on the Biden administration to “undertake a shift in U.S. policy in recognition of the worsening violence, further annexation of land, and denial of Palestinian rights” by Israel. Their letter, delivered in mid-April, recommends attaching conditions to the \$3.8 billion Israel receives from U.S. taxpayers annually.

The letter also requests that no U.S. funds be used to support illegal settlements, and urges that existing regula-

tions prohibiting assistance to military forces that commit gross human rights violations should be applied to Israel. Above all, the letter is a progressive recognition that our tax dollars will be used to violate the human rights of Palestinian civilians as long as we keep giving Israel a blank check to do just that.

Supported by Israeli military and police, illegal settlers regularly and violently attack people and animals, and destroy crops and property. To file a complaint, Palestinians must go to the police station inside of a settlement, where they are more likely to be arrested or interrogated for hours than having any action taken against their attackers. Of the legal complaints made against settlers, 93% are dismissed by Israeli courts.

I’ve been doing accompaniment and solidarity work as a volunteer in these villages for a dozen years, spending about two months in the area each spring. From my own firsthand experience, I know that settlers in Masafer Yatta have become even more brazenly engaged in a violent and stinians out and permanently seize their land. As part of that campaign, the area’s 1,300 residents are also facing imminent destruction of their homes to make way for the Israeli military’s war exercises.

This is what U.S. taxpayers are buying with the \$8 million we give Israel each day, which amounts to the strangulation of vil-lages caught between illegal outposts. As concerned citizens, we have a responsibility to insist the Biden administration stop making exceptions for Israel when it comes to human rights abuses in Palestinian areas. We know better than to stand by and allow an occupying power to demolish schools and homes.

Cassandra Dixon lives in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. She is a residential carpenter and has volunteered in Palestinian areas for the last decade. The Israeli settler who attacked her is on house arrest, with a trial scheduled for July.

SENESCENT SONNETS

Another Mayday? Ai A Day!

LITERARY NOOK
By **JOEY CONNOLLY**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

“The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.”
—*Albert Einstein (1879-1955), who formulated the theory of relativity.*

“Mayday”—an international radio telephone signal for help that is used by ships and aircraft in distress—is short for the French phrase “venez m’aider” (come help me).

American singer, songwriter, Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winner Bob Dylan was born May 24, 1941. Still performs at 82. Below is a parody of his beautiful song titled *Forever Young*.

Artificial Intelligence: Advice Information and Added Interest for Aging Ignoramuses

AI: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE , a new cyber buzzword
AI: coming for, with, in front of, behind and over the top of you
AI: with purloined provenance, parlance, and shoddy elegance
AI: what is it? why use it? how do you use it ? what can you do?
AI: use your due diligence, use your innate inherent intelligence
AI: use whatever education you have, your brain, do your duty
AI: at all times try to be on both the defense and the offense
AI: and of course use your common sense and your ingenuity
AI: check with IT specialists, grammar, middle, and HS students
AI: check for new rules and regulations in all fields of education
AI: check with experts you may know in the field of jurisprudence
AI: check and review all new local, state, and national legislation
AI: What’s the outcome, the onslaught, of the ongoing AI tsunami ?
AI: Why don’t you ask an AI genie or some slick cyber swami ?






“The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race.”
—*Stephen Hawking, Cambridge Professor of Physics, cosmologist, discoverer of Hawking radiation. He did groundbreaking research on black holes. (1942-2018)*

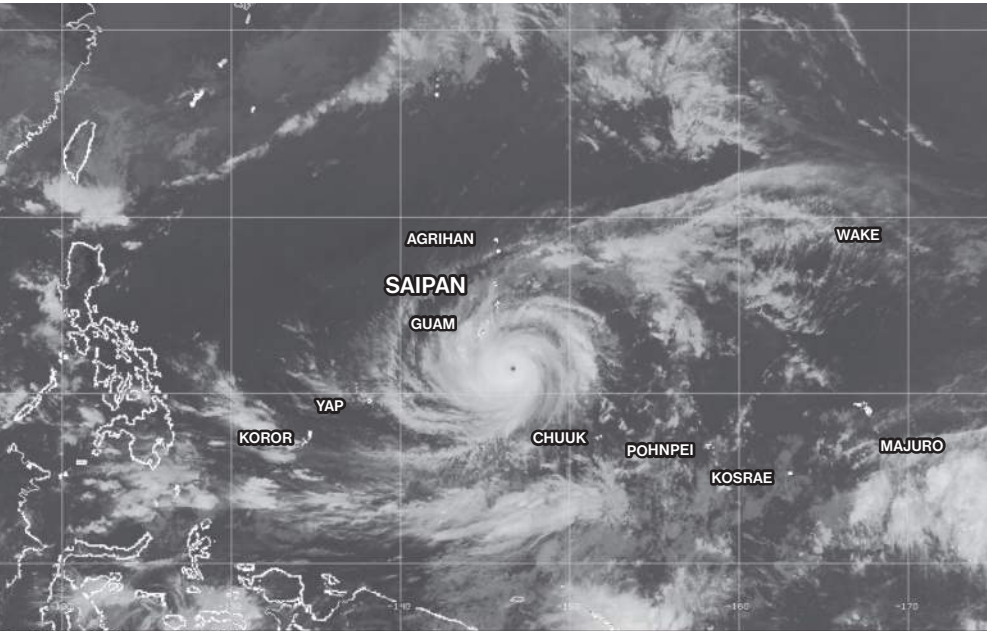
“Claiming that complex outputs arising from even more complex inputs is ‘emergent behavior’ is like finding a severed finger in a hotdog and claiming the hotdog factory has learned to create fingers.”
—*Theodore Kim, an associate professor of computer science at Yale University, in an opinion piece that was republished in Saipan Tribune.*

May You Only Slowly Grow Senescent (Parody of the Bob Dylan song Forever Young)

May your brain stay bright and your head stay clear
May kind loving thoughts for others predominate
May both your eyes avoid shedding a single tear
May your ears enjoy both minor key and dominant
May you continue to learn when and how not to fight
And argue less and less with all those that you love
As you sing and dance throughout eternal night
Stand up for your beliefs when push comes to shove
May you keep your heart wide open to all the poor
Immigrants whether their entry is legal or not
Stay away from lying politicians and followers for sure
Stay away from entangling arguments when they get hot.
May the rest of your life be peaceful and pleasant.
May you only very slowly grow to be senescent.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall.		Showers		A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	
85°	79°	86°	79°	86°	79°	86°	79°	86°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:30 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent rain bands and gusty winds associated with Typhoon Mawar are seen coming in and out of the Marianas. Scatterometry shows fresh winds over Guam's coastal waters. Tropical storm force winds tonight will become typhoon force winds tomorrow.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Heavy Rain/Wind	84° / 78°	
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	89° / 78°	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:21 AM	10:48 PM	-
Thursday	10:14 AM	11:32 PM	-
Friday	11:05 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:12 AM	11:54 AM
Sunday	-	12:49 AM	12:42 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 65°	
Hong Kong	Scattered Thunderstorms	82° / 79°	
Honolulu	Sunny	84° / 73°	
London	Partly Cloudy	71° / 51°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 58°	
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	92° / 81°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	62° / 50°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	69° / 53°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	75° / 57°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	67° / 50°	
Busan	Cloudy	69° / 59°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	80° / 58°	
Salem	Rain	63° / 59°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	62° / 52°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 53°	
Tokyo	Sunny	74° / 56°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 52°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:20 AM	Low Tide	1.45	
9:12 AM	High Tide	1.73	
5:00 PM	Low Tide	0.01	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/				Sat/Sun
			Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

No debt ceiling agreement in White House meeting

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy both said they had a productive debt ceiling discussion late Monday at the White House, but there was no agreement as negotiators strained to raise the nation's borrowing limit in time to avert a potentially chaotic federal default.

It's a crucial moment for the Democratic president and the Republican speaker, just 10 days before a looming deadline to raise the debt limit.

As soon as June 1, Treasury Secretary Janel Yellen said in a letter to Congress, "it is highly likely" the government will be unable to pay all the nation's bills. Such an unprecedented default would be financially damaging for many Americans and others around the world relying on U.S. stability, sending shockwaves through the global economy.

Each side praised the other's seriousness, but basic differences remained. They are at odds over how to trim annual budget deficits. Republicans are determined to cut spending while Biden's team offered to hold spending levels flat. Biden wants to increase some taxes on the wealthiest Americans and some big companies, but McCarthy said early on that that is out of the question.



House Speaker Kevin McCarthy of Calif., speaks as he meets with President Joe Biden to discuss the debt limit in the Oval Office of the White House, Monday, May 22, 2023, in Washington.

"The time of spending, just spending more money in America and government is wrong," McCarthy said after the Oval Office meeting.

In a brief post-meeting statement, Biden called the session productive but merely added that he, McCarthy and

their lead negotiators "will continue to discuss the path forward." Upbeat, McCarthy said their teams would work "through the night."

Biden said all agreed that "default is not really on the table."

Though there is no agree-

ment on basic issues, the contours of a deal seem within reach. A budget deal would unlock a separate vote to lift the debt ceiling, now \$31 trillion, to allow more borrowing.

Negotiations are focused on finding compromise over a 2024 budget year cap that would be key to resolving the standoff. Republicans insisted next year's spending be less than it is now, but the White House instead offered to hold spending flat at current 2023 numbers.

Republicans initially sought to roll back next year's spending to 2022 levels, and impose 1% caps on spending growth for 10 years, though a later proposal narrowed that to about six years. The White House wants a two-year budget deal, keeping 2024 spending flat. They proposed a 1% cap on spending growth for 2025, according to a person familiar with the talks and granted anonymity to discuss them.

A compromise on those topline spending levels would enable McCarthy to deliver for

conservatives, while not being so severe that it would chase off the Democratic votes that would be needed in the divided Congress to pass any bill.

"We're going to find a baseline that we agree to that will be less than what we spent this year," McCarthy said back at the Capitol.

Time is growing short. The House speaker promised lawmakers he will abide by the rule to post any bill for 72 hours before voting, making any action doubtful until the end of the week — just days before the potential deadline. The Senate would also have to pass the package before it could go to Biden's desk to be signed into law.

After a weekend of start-stop talks, both Biden and McCarthy have declared a need to close out a compromise deal. U.S. financial markets turned down last week after negotiations paused amid a jittery economy.

Biden and McCarthy spoke by phone Sunday while the president was returning home on Air Force One after the Group of Seven summit in Japan.

Biden used his concluding news conference in Hiroshima, Japan, to say he had done his part by agreeing to spending cuts and to warn, "It's time for Republicans to accept that there is no deal to be made solely, solely, on their partisan terms."

"Now it's time for the other side to move from their extreme position," he said.

New nasal spray to reverse fentanyl, other opioid overdoses gets approval from FDA

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. health regulators on Monday approved a new easy-to-use version of a medication to reverse overdoses caused by fentanyl and other opioids driving the nation's drug crisis.

Opvee is similar to naloxone, the life-saving drug that has been used for decades to quickly counter overdoses of heroin, fentanyl and prescription painkillers. Both work by blocking the effects of opioids in the brain, which can restore normal breathing and blood pressure in people who have recently overdosed.

The Food and Drug Administration endorsed Opvee, a nasal spray update of the drug nalmeferene, which was first approved as an injection in the mid-1990s but later removed from the market due to low sales. Naloxone comes as both a nasal spray and injection.

It's not immediately clear how the new drug will be used differently compared to

naloxone, and some experts see potential downsides to its longer-acting effect. The drug will be available via prescription and is approved for patients 12 and older.

In studies funded by the federal government, Opvee achieved similar recovery results to Narcan, the leading brand of naloxone nasal spray.

Opvee was developed by Opiant Pharmaceuticals, which was recently acquired by rival Indivior, maker of several medications for opioid addiction. Indivior expects to launch Opvee in October at the earliest.

As the opioid epidemic has shifted to fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, researchers in the pharmaceutical industry and the U.S. government saw a new role for the drug.

Because fentanyl stays in the body longer than heroin and other opioids, some people may require multiple doses of naloxone over several hours to fully reverse an overdose.

Scientists at the National Institutes of Health worked with pharmaceutical researchers on a nasal spray version of nalmeferene that would quickly resuscitate users, while also protecting them from relapse. Testing and development was funded by more than \$18 million in grants from the U.S. government's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the NIH, which also helped design the studies.

"The whole aim of this was to have a medication that would last longer but also reach into the brain very rapidly," said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Still, some experts see potential downsides.

A side effect of all opioid reversal drugs is that they create intense withdrawal symptoms including nausea, diarrhea, muscle cramps and anxiety. With naloxone, those symptoms might last 30 to 40 minutes.

SC won't hear dispute over California barring sale of foie gras

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court said Monday it won't get involved in a dispute over a California animal cruelty law that bars foie gras from being sold in the state, leaving in place a lower court ruling dismissing the case.

Foie gras is made from the enlarged livers of force-fed ducks and geese, and animal welfare groups had supported the law. As is typical, the court did not comment in declining to hear the case, and it was among many the court said Monday it would not hear.

The law doesn't completely bar Californians from eating foie gras in the state. Courts have ruled that residents can still order foie gras from out-of-state producers and have it sent to them. Restaurants and retailers are still forbidden from selling it or giving it away, however.

The foie gras case had been on hold at the high court while

the justices considered a different case involving another California animal cruelty law, that one governing the sale of pork in the state. In that case, the justices earlier this month backed that law, which requires more space for breeding pigs. The pork industry has said the ruling will lead to higher costs nationwide for pork chops and bacon.

California's foie gras law, however, predates the pork law and went into effect in July 2012. It says: "A product may not be sold in California if it is the result of force feeding a bird for the purpose of enlarging the bird's liver beyond normal size."

Farmers and producers of poultry products in Canada sued over the law along with New York-based Hudson Valley Foie Gras. The case has been going on since 2012. Most recently, a trial court dismissed the case and a fed-

eral appeals court agreed with that outcome. The Supreme Court's decision not to step in leaves that decision in place.

In a statement released through their attorney, Michael Tenenbaum, the groups that brought the case said they were disappointed both with the way the high court resolved the California pork law case earlier in the month and with the high court's decision not to step in to their case.

"Like farmers across the Nation, we are disappointed with the Supreme Court's fractured ruling in the pork producers' case, which allowed California's politicians to tell people what they can and can't eat. And we believe the Court should have agreed to add our case to its plate for the upcoming term, since it presents an even more compelling challenge to these nanny-state bans," the statement read.

Nation

Biden's shift on F-16s for Ukraine came after months of INTERNAL DEBATE

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden's decision to allow allies to train Ukrainian forces on how to operate F-16 fighter jets—and eventually to provide the aircraft themselves—seemed like an abrupt change in position but was in fact one that came after months of internal debate and quiet talks with allies.

Biden announced during last week's Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima, Japan, that the U.S. would join the F-16 coalition. His green light came after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spent months pressing the West to provide his forces with American-made jets as he tries to repel Russia's now 15-month-old grinding invasion.

Long shadowing the administration's calculation were worries that such a move could escalate tensions with Russia. U.S. officials also argued that learning to fly and logistically support the advanced F-16 would be difficult and time consuming.

But over the past three months, administration officials shifted toward the view that it was time to provide Ukraine's pilots with the training and aircraft needed for the country's long-term

security needs, according to three officials familiar with the deliberations who requested anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Still, the change in Biden's position seemed rather sudden.

In February, Biden was insistent in an interview with ABC's David Muir that Ukraine "doesn't need F-16s now" and that "I am ruling it out for now."

And in March, a top Pentagon policy official, Colin Kahl, told U.S. lawmakers that even if the president approved F-16s for Ukraine, it could take as long as two years to get Ukrainian pilots trained and equipped.

But as the administration was publicly playing down the prospect of F-16s for Ukraine in the near term, an internal debate was heating up.

Quiet White House discussions stepped up in February, around the time that Biden visited Ukraine and Poland, according to the U.S. officials.

Following the trip, discussions that included senior White House National Security Council, Pentagon and State Department officials began on the pros and cons and the details of how such a transfer might work, officials

said. Administration officials also got deeper into consultations with allies.

In April, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin heard from defense leaders from allied countries during a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group who were looking for U.S. permission to train the Ukrainians on F-16s, according to a Defense Department official who was not authorized to comment publicly. Austin raised the matter during the NSC policy discussions and there was agreement that it was time to start training.

Austin also raised the issue with Biden before the G7 summit with a recommendation "to proceed with approving allies" to train the Ukrainians and transfer the aircraft, the department official said. Secretary of State Antony Blinken also was a strong advocate for pushing forward with the plan during the U.S. policy talks and conveying to Biden increasing European urgency on the issue, officials said.

U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan traveled to London on May 8 for talks with British, French and German allies on Ukraine, and F-16s were high on the agenda. They got into the nitty gritty on how to go about providing training and which countries might be willing to transfer jets to Ukraine. It was agreed that the focus would be on training first, according to



AP
U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jets fly over the Osan U.S. Air Base during a combined air force exercise with the United States and South Korea in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, Dec. 4, 2017.

one of the officials.

Sullivan, before leaving London, spoke by phone with his counterparts from the Netherlands and Poland, both countries that have F-16s and "would be essential to any efforts to provide Ukraine jets for any future use." Denmark also could potentially provide the jets, the official added.

Biden and Sullivan discussed how the upcoming G7 summit in Hiroshima could provide a good opportunity for him to make the case to key allies on the administration's shifting stance on fighter jets.

They also discussed Biden backing allies providing jets to Ukraine—a line he had previously appeared not to want to cross out of concern that it could draw the West into what could be seen as direct confrontation with Moscow.

Biden, in private talks with fellow G7 leaders on Friday, confirmed that the U.S. would get behind a joint effort to train Ukrainian pilots on the F-16 and that as things went on, they would work together on who would provide them and how many would be sent.

State, Pentagon and NSC officials are now developing the training plan and "when, where and how to deliver F-16s" to Ukraine as part of the long-term

security effort, the official said.

U.S. officials say it will take several months to iron out details, but the U.S. Air Force has quietly determined that the actual training could realistically be done in about four months. The Air Force based the far shorter estimate on a visit by two Ukrainian pilots to a U.S. air base in March, where they got to learn about the F-16 and fly simulators. The training, officials say, would take place in Europe.

White House officials have bristled at the notion that Biden's decision amounted to a sea change.

The administration had been focused on providing Ukraine with weapons—including air defense systems, armored vehicles, bridging equipment and artillery—that were needed for a coming counteroffensive. There also were concerns that sending

F-16s would eat up a significant portion of the money allocated for Ukraine.

What changed, the official added, is that other allies got to a point where they were willing to provide their own jets as part of a U.S.-based coalition.

The Biden administration is still examining whether it will directly provide its own F-16s to Ukraine. Regardless, it needed buy-in from other allies because the U.S. wouldn't be able to provide the full fleet of jets Zelenskyy says is needed.

Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said the F-16 will give Ukraine a key capability for the long term but it won't be a "game changer."

Kendall told a gathering of reporters on Monday there has been an awareness that "we needed to go there at some point, but we didn't have a sense of urgency about this. I think we're at a reasonable place to make that decision now."

Agents who killed man in Arizona said answering report of gunfire

BJO, Ariz. (AP)—U.S. Border Patrol agents answering reports of gunfire shot and killed a man on a tribal reservation in southern Arizona after he abruptly threw something and raised his arm, the agency said Monday.

The FBI and Tohono O'odham Nation are investigating Thursday night's fatal shooting of Raymond Mattia.

Monday's U.S. Customs and Border Protection statement said tribal police had asked Border Patrol agents for help in responding to a report of shots fired west of the Menagers Dam community on tribal land near the U.S.-Mexico border.

At around 9:30 p.m., the agents were told that reports indicated shots had been fired near the home of a "named individual" and a tribal officer went to the location to look for the person, with the agents following in separate cars, the statement said.

A few minutes after arriv-

ing, the police officer and the agents encountered a man outside of a home near their parked cars, the statement said.

The man threw some kind of object toward the officer that landed a few feet away and then "abruptly extended his right arm away from his body and three agents fired their service weapons, striking the individual several times," the statement said.

Because of bad weather, no air ambulance was available to take the man to a hospital and despite lifesaving efforts he was declared dead shortly after 10 p.m., according to the statement.

An autopsy was conducted but the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office didn't immediately release details.

The three Border Patrol agents who opened fire and at least seven others were wearing body cameras and activated them during the incident, the statement said.

More women ask court to put block on Texas abortion law

WASHINGTON (AP)—One woman had to carry her baby, missing much of her skull, for months knowing she'd bury her daughter soon after she was born. Another started mirroring the life-threatening symptoms that her baby was displaying while in the womb. An OB-GYN found herself secretly traveling out of state to abort her wanted pregnancy, marred by the diagnosis of a fatal fetal anomaly.

All of the women were told they could not end their pregnancies in Texas, a state that has enacted some of the nation's most restrictive abortion laws.

Now, they're asking a Texas court to put an emergency hold

on some abortion restrictions, joining a lawsuit launched earlier this year by five other women who were denied abortions in the state, despite pregnancies they say endangered their health or lives.

More than a dozen Texas women in total have joined the Center for Reproductive Rights' lawsuit against the state's law, which prohibits abortions unless a mother's life is at risk—an exception that is not clearly defined. Texas doctors who perform abortions risk life in prison and fines of up to \$100,000, leaving many women with providers who are unwilling to even discuss terminating a pregnancy.

"Our hope is that it will al-

low physicians at least a little more comfort when it comes to patients in obstetrical emergencies who really need an abortion where it's going to affect their health, fertility or life going forward," Molly Duane, the lead attorney on the case, told The Associated Press. "Almost all of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit tell similar stories about their doctors saying, if not for this law, I'd give you an abortion right now."

The Texas attorney general's office, which is defending the state in the lawsuit, did not immediately return an email seeking comment Monday.

The lawsuit serves as a nationwide model for abortion rights advocates to chal-

lenge strict new abortion laws states that have rolled out since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year. Sixteen states, including Texas, do not allow abortions when a fatal fetal anomaly is detected while six do not allow exceptions for the mother's health, according to an analysis by KFF, a health research organization.

Duane said the Center for Reproductive Rights is looking at filing similar lawsuits in other states, noting that they've heard from women across the country. Roughly 25 Texas women have contacted the organization about their own experiences since the initial lawsuit was filed in March.

Asia

S. Korea, EU agree to boost pressure on Russia

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Leaders of South Korea and the European Union agreed Monday to increase pressure on Russia over its war against Ukraine and condemn North Korea's ballistic missile tests.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol met with Eu-

» Also condemn North Korean missile tests

ropean Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Seoul, after the three leaders attended the weekend summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations in Hiroshima, Japan.

"We agree to maintain and increase the collective pressure on Russia, particularly through effective implementation of the respective restrictive measures," they said in a joint statement. "We are committed to support Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction and remain resolved to support Ukraine for as long as it takes."

Michel said Russia's continued attacks against Ukraine show that deeper cooperation between the EU and South Korea is "not a luxury. It's a vital necessity."

The three leaders called on North Korea to cease actions that raise military tensions and return to nuclear disarmament talks.



South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol, center, poses for a photo with European Council President Charles Michel, left, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during their meeting at the Presidential Office in Seoul Monday, May 22, 2023.

"The European Union will never accept (North Korea's) possession of nuclear weapons as the normal state of affairs, just like we do not accept Russia's military aggression against Ukraine," von der Leyen said at a joint news conference.

Yoon said the three leaders recognized that North Korea's nuclear and missile programs pose a threat beyond the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea has launched about 100 missiles since the start of 2022, many of them nuclear-capable weapons that place the U.S. mainland and South Korea within striking distance. Experts say North Korea believes its expanded weapons arsenal will help it wrest concessions from its rivals.

At the G7 summit, the lead-

ers of Japan, the U.S., the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada and Italy as well as the European Union condemned Russia's invasion and reiterated their support for Ukraine. They demanded that North Korea refrain from any destabilizing or escalatory actions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with some of his biggest backers as the G7 summit closed on Sunday, building momentum for his country's war effort even as Russia claimed a battlefield victory that was quickly disputed by Ukraine. Even before Zelenskyy landed Saturday, the G7 nations had unveiled new sanctions and other measures meant to punish Moscow over its invasion that began in February last year.

India scorched by extreme heat with monsoon rains delayed

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Swathes of India from the northwest to the southeast braced for more scorching heat Monday, with New Delhi under a severe weather alert, as extreme temperatures strike parts of the country.

The Indian Meteorological Department issued a heat wave alert for seven southern and central states last week and broadened it to the capital and some northern states on Monday as sizzling temperatures breached normal levels.

It warned that blistering heat will continue for the next few days before rains bring some relief. The southwest monsoon is slightly delayed this year and will hit in the first week of June, causing temperatures to stay high longer than usual, it said.

As temperatures crossed 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, some parts suffered blackouts lasting more than 12 hours despite a March order for all power plants in the country

run at full capacity to reduce power cuts. The heat wave in the state is likely to continue for two more days, a weather official said.

Hundreds of frustrated residents protested outside power stations near the state capital, Lucknow, and blocked roads over the weekend.

"Power cuts mean no ACs, no fans, and even no water. The scorching heat has made our lives unbearable and the lack of power is adding to our misery," said Ramesh Gupta, a Lucknow resident. He said his wife was forced to sleep in the car over the weekend with the air conditioning on high so their 9-month-old baby would stop crying.

The searing heat forced many residents of the city to seek refuge indoors. "We have become prisoners to the relentless summer as no one wants to venture out," said Sudhir Sehgal, a teacher.

Sukhai Ram, a gardener who is paid only when he works, was forced to set down his tools. "I cannot work any-

more now. I will work once the sun goes down," he said, drenched in sweat.

Dairy workers wrapped their cans with jute to keep the milk from spoiling. Construction workers hosed themselves down for a temporary respite from the soaring heat.

Nighttime temperatures are also rising, sparking increased demand for electricity to run air conditioners and fans.

The main summer months—April, May and June—are always hot in most parts of India before monsoon rains bring cooler temperatures. But temperatures have become more intense in the past decade. During heat waves, the country usually also suffers severe water shortages, with tens of millions of its 1.4 billion people lacking running water.

A study by World Weather Attribution, an academic group that examines the source of extreme heat, found that a searing heat wave in April that struck parts of South Asia was made at least 30 times more likely by climate change.

World

Russia: Ukrainian saboteurs launch attack across border

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian officials claimed that Ukrainian military saboteurs launched an attack across the border Monday, wounding eight people in a small town. Kyiv officials denied any link with the group and blamed the fighting on a revolt by disgruntled Russians against the Kremlin.

Neither version of events could be independently verified in an area that has witnessed sporadic spillover from the almost 15-month war in Ukraine.

The governor of Russia's Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, said that a Ukrainian Armed Forces saboteur group entered the town of Graivoron, about five kilometers (three miles) from the border. The town also came under Ukrainian artillery fire, he said.

Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said eight people were wounded and most residents had left the area, but the situation remained "tense."

In nearby Zamostye village, a projectile hit a kindergarten and caused a fire. One woman was wounded in her hand, Gladkov said. He also reported that Russian anti-

aircraft systems shot down an unmanned aerial vehicle over Belgorod region.

Gladkov said a counterterrorist operation was underway and that authorities were imposing special controls, including personal document checks and stopping the work of companies that use "explosives, radioactive, chemically and biologically hazardous substances."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russian President Vladimir Putin was informed about the alleged saboteur incursion. An effort to "push them out from the Russian territory and liquidate them" was underway, he said.

Peskov described the action as an attempt by Ukraine to divert attention from the eastern city of Bakhmut, which Moscow claimed to have captured after months of battle but where Kyiv says it is still fighting.

But Ukrainian military intelligence officials didn't confirm that Kyiv had deployed saboteurs. Instead, they claimed that Russian citizens seeking regime change in Moscow were behind the Graivoron incursion.

Ukraine intelligence representative Andrii Cherniak said Russian citizens belonging to murky groups calling themselves the Russian Volunteer Corps and the "Freedom of Russia" Legion were behind the assault.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's advisor, Mykhailo Podolyak, said on Twitter that Ukraine "has nothing to do with it." He suggested an "armed guerrilla movement" was behind the attack.

The Russian Volunteer Corps claimed in a Telegram post it had crossed the border into Russia again, after claiming to have breached the border in early March.

The Russian Volunteer Corps describes itself as "a volunteer formation fighting on Ukraine's side." Little is known about the group, and it is not clear if it has any ties with the Ukrainian military. The same is true for the "Freedom of Russia" Legion.

The RVC was founded last August and reportedly consists mostly of anti-Putin far-right Russian extremists who have links with Ukrainian far-right groups.

WORLD BRIEFS

Portuguese police confirm new search for Madeleine McCann

LISBON (AP)—Portuguese police have said they will resume searching for Madeleine McCann, the British toddler who disappeared in the country's Algarve region in 2007, in the next few days. Portugal's Judicial Police released a statement confirming local media reports that they would conduct the search at the request of the German authorities and in the presence of British officials. Earlier on Monday, police were seen erecting tents and cordons in an area by the Arade dam, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) from Praia da Luz, where the 3-year-old was last seen alive. British, Portuguese and German police are still piecing together what happened when the toddler disappeared from her bed in the southern Portuguese resort on May 3, 2007. She was in the same room as her 2-year-old twin brother and sister while her parents had dinner with friends at a nearby restaurant.

Mexicans near Popocatepetl stay vigilant as volcano's activity increases

SANTIAGO XALITZINTLA, Mexico (AP)—At the edge of this town near the Popocatepetl volcano, away from the din of traffic, there was an occasional low rumble Monday, like an idling engine. A cloud of superfine ash descended, slightly reducing visibility and coming to rest on vehicles' windshields. For more than a week, the 17,797-foot (5,425-meter) mountain just 45 miles (about 70 kilome-

ters) southeast of Mexico City and known affectionately as "El Popo," has been increasingly explosive, spewing great plumes of gas, ash and incandescent rock into the air. The activity led the Mexican government to raise the warning level and to close schools in dozens of municipalities across three states. On Monday, local, state and federal officials held drills for the possibility of evacuations.

Cars set on fire in Welsh capital as police face 'large scale disorder'

LONDON (AP)—At least two cars were set ablaze and objects were hurled at police after a traffic accident Monday night in the Welsh capital Cardiff grew into what officials described as "large scale disorder." Officers were called to the scene of a crash on Snowden Road in Ely district shortly after 6 p.m. Monday. Scenes livestreamed on YouTube showed dozens of people, many wearing hoods or balaclavas, milling around while others threw objects and shot off fireworks at a line of police officers with riot shields who were blocking one end of the street. At 8:21 p.m., South Wales Police urged people to leave the area and tweeted: "There is now a large number of officers working to manage the collision, but also to de-escalate ongoing disorder at the scene." An hour later, police said emergency services remained at the scene and reiterated the importance of people staying away from the area. The force added: "Please avoid speculation—we will bring you the latest details as soon as we can—all of our updates must be factual."

Good Housekeeping

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Nell Hill's designer Anne and her family have lived in their Prairie Village, Kansas, home for almost four years. When the Epsteins purchased their nearly century-old home in the suburbs of Kansas, they knew it needed an update. Many big and little projects needed to get done. The ceilings were vaulted, kitchen entirely remodeled, even the location of the stairs to the basement were moved.

While Anne may tell you the house is still a work in progress, as any design is ever-evolving, I love that it is a true expression of her personal style. I positively pounced on the opportunity to bring you inside for a guided tour of her gorgeous home.

The kitchen

At the far end of the sprawling ranch-style home lies a bright and airy kitchen, outfitted with a sleek built-in refrigerator and six-burner stovetop perfect for whipping up meals for her busy family of five. Beautiful muted vintage rugs anchor the space; the runner was recently purchased from a vintage rug vendor on a buying trip to High Point Market for the shop. The stools are non-custom pieces that were reimagined with a beautiful Schumacher fabric and a breathtaking navy double-welt edge.

Anne lives for preppy chinoiserie, so a burnt orange vase makes perfect sense as the focal point of her kitchen island. Above it, she added brushed brass pendant lights. To the right of the pantry is a rustic vintage-inspired buffet layered with everyday pieces and stacks of dainty dishes.

The sitting room

A sitting room is tucked off the side of the dining space, a favorite spot for the family to curl up and watch television at the end of the day. The walls are dressed in a rich navy that complements the buttery velvet ottoman in the middle of the room and sets the tone for a bold and vibrant space that still brings an air of relaxation. Black-and-white buffalo check curtains add a preppy detail and lend to the casual elegance of the design.

The back cushions of this down-stuffed ticking stripe sectional sofa is a favorite napping spot of Anne's pup, Oliver. She loves the luxurious feeling that down offers but may warn you before selecting it for a high-traffic lounge spot if you aren't prepared to deal with the maintenance it takes to keep it performing its best. (This does include regular cushion rotation!)

A monogrammed pillow made by Anne's daughter brings out the lush pink tones in the matching tiger pillows custom-made from a famous fabric house. Carrying the preppy pink tones to the ottoman is a chinoise planter housing a blooming orchid. Her artwork, curated over time, is a beautiful combination of el-



The sitting room's walls are dressed in a rich navy that complements the buttery velvet ottoman in the middle of the room and sets the tone for a bold and vibrant space that still brings an air of relaxation.

HANDOUT/TNS

Take a peek inside this preppy home



HANDOUT/TNS

The home opens up to the living room, where a bold expression of texture and color greet you at the door.

ements. The trays add texture, while the porcelain plates add dimension against the striking navy wall.

The dining room

Upon entering the home, you're greeted immediately by the open

and welcoming dining room. Bamboo Chipendale chairs are pulled up to an expansive table, twin upholstered chairs in a coral colorway flank either side in a popular otomi pattern. Anne likes this fabric so much she's actually used it several places in her home. The couch in the nearby living room features a pillow of the same fabric in green!

A Derby Day table is set with beautiful dishes Anne has collected over the years. On the mantel she's tied in serveware as decor and incorporated New Traditional accents like laurel wreaths, slipcovered books, and blooms at varying heights. The vignette reads casual but elegant, perfect for an evening of entertaining family friends.



HANDOUT/TNS

The powder room vanity, a chinoise-inspired piece with bamboo detailing, commands the space.

the juxtaposition of the inky black statement pieces. A decorative tissue holder and matching tray add a welcome pop of New Traditional blue

The living room

The home opens up to the living room, where a bold expression of texture and color greet you at the door. The room is an absolutely lovely combination of preppy and New Traditional elements that are perfect for Anne. The walls are dressed up with a botanical-inspired Schumacher wallpaper in a cool and casual colorway. The artwork adds in a dash of prep to the space. The rug's blues and greens are well at home in this vibrant space. In fact, Anne has been known to bring a lucky client or two over to see it before ordering it for their homes.

Twin chairs sit opposite the couch, green gimp and nailhead trim adding a stately detail to the delicate

pair. A pair of pillows complement them, their flange tying into the little pops of pink that are found throughout the space. The coffee table and buffet add in rich warm tones that mix with with the bright upholstery in a bright and cheery way. Tucked under the console are a pair of ottomans covered in a dazzling green animal print, the legs painted navy for an extra layer of customization that makes them stand out. Not only do they add a fun detail to the space, they're easily accessible for additional seating if needed.

The console is topped with traditional elements; a collection of blue chinoiserie taking center stage, including a tiny delicate tea set that has been in her family for years. The scene is flanked by a pair of lamps that feature a dazzling collection of insects and vintage-inspired concrete statues.

I hope you enjoyed this lovely amble through Anne's happy and stylish home. To me, her house is a testament to the fact that what you like is always in style. I hope it inspired you to think outside your comfort zone and not be afraid to inject your personality into your spaces.



To the right of the pantry is a rustic vintage-inspired buffet layered with everyday pieces and stacks of dainty dishes.

HANDOUT/TNS

The powder room

To the left of the hall on the way to the bedrooms is the guest powder room. The walls are covered in a faux grasscloth material that feels as luxe as it looks. The vanity, a chinoise-inspired piece with bamboo detailing, commands the space. The light fixtures, a preppy and chic Kate Spade design, bring the deep hues of the vanity up to your eyeline.

Earthy artwork complements the warm tone of the walls and furthers

Life & Style

Jeremy Renner wants tax credits for film projects in northern Nevada

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)—Actor Jeremy Renner's hopes to expand a measure for the film industry to northern Nevada were effectively dashed Monday when the bill's sponsor said it's too late to entertain in the current legislative session.

A bill moving through the Nevada Legislature would provide \$190 million annually in tax credits over at least 20 years aimed at bringing film productions to two sites in southern Nevada, including a \$1 billion Sony expansion.

Renner, who played the sharp-shooting Hawkeye of the Avengers squad in Marvel's

sprawling movie and television universe, lobbied lawmakers Monday for a third site in northern Nevada that he said could rival film production studios in Atlanta and New Mexico where he shot Avengers and other films.

Democratic Sen. Roberta Lange of Las Vegas, the bill sponsor, and Brandon Birtcher, a developer who spearheaded the project said it was too late in the project to add another site. But Lange said a potential amendment could potentially provide for a study to look at what economic impacts a northern Nevada expansion

would bring.

"It took two years to get that bill to where it is today. And so to bring in something else, a whole new idea at this point, it's probably not going to work," said Lange. "But I think we need to look at it."

The bill is the latest attempt at diversifying southern Nevada's economy that relies largely on revenue from gambling and tourism but that was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The proposed tax incentives are the largest in recent state history, even with the deals that numbered in the hundreds of millions with Tesla and lithium



Actor Jeremy Renner poses for a photo with Democratic Assemblywoman Brittney Miller in Carson City, Nev., on Monday, May 22, 2023.

Ray Stevenson, of 'Rome' and 'Thor' movies, dies at 58

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITER

Ray Stevenson, who played the villainous British governor in "RRR," an Asgardian warrior in the "Thor" films, and a member of the 13th Legion in HBO's "Rome," has died. He was 58.

Representatives for Stevenson told The Associated Press that he died Sunday but had no other details to share on Monday.

Stevenson was born in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, in 1964. After attending the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and years of working in British television, he made his film debut in Paul Greengrass's 1998 film "The Theory of Flight." In 2004, he appeared in Antoine Fuqua's "King Arthur" as a knight of the round table and several years later played the lead in the pre-Disney Marvel adaptation "Punisher: War Zone."

Though "Punisher" was not the best-reviewed film, he'd get another taste of Marvel in the first three "Thor" films,

in which he played Volstagg. Other prominent film roles included the "Divergent" trilogy, "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" and "The Transporter: Refueled."

A looming presence at 6-foot-4, Stevenson, who played his share of soldiers past and present, once said in an interview, "I guess I'm an old warrior at heart."

On the small screen, he was the roguish Titus Pullo in "Rome," a role that really got his career going in the United States and got him a SAG card, at the age of 44. The popular series ran from 2005 to 2007.

"That was one of the major years of my life," Stevenson said in an interview. "It made me sit down in my own skin and say, just do the job. The job's enough."

In the Variety review of "Rome," Brian Lowery wrote that "the imposing Stevenson certainly stands out as a brawling, whoring and none-too-bright warrior — a force of nature who, despite his excesses, somehow keeps

landing on his feet."

He was Blackbeard in the Starz series "Black Sails," Commander Jack Swinburne in the German television series "Das Boot," and Othere on "Vikings."

Stevenson also did voice work in "Star Wars Rebels" and "The Clone Wars," as Gar Saxon, and has a role in the upcoming Star Wars live-action series "Ahsoka," in which he plays a bad guy, Baylan Skoll. The eight-episode season is expected on Disney+ in August.

In an interview with Backstage in 2020, Stevenson said his acting idols were, "The likes of Lee Marvin (and) Gene Hackman."

"Never a bad performance, and brave and fearless within that caliber," Stevenson said. "It was never the young, hot leading man; it was men who I could identify with."



Stevenson

battery recycling company Redwood Materials.

But unlike those deals, which used direct tax abatements, private developers and studios must hit certain goals

to receive expansive tax credits. Two sites are proposed, one on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and another in the Summerlin area of Las Vegas.

Developers would have to spend \$500 million and \$400 million on the sites by 2030, and studios would have to wrap up film production before getting tax credits.

Def Leppard drummer Rick Allen says he was attacked outside his hotel in March

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Def Leppard drummer Rick Allen says he was blindsided during an attack on him outside a South Florida hotel following a concert earlier this year.

"I heard a couple of steps and then I just saw this (flash) and the next thing I knew was I was on the ground," Allen, 59, told ABC's "Good Morning America" in an interview broadcast Monday. "I landed on my backside—hit my head on the pavement."

Def Leppard was in Fort Lauderdale to perform at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino when he was attacked March 13 while taking a smoke break outside a hotel.



Allen

Police arrested Max Hartley, a 19-year-old from Avon, Ohio, who has pleaded not guilty to two counts of battery and four counts of criminal mischief, according to court records. Police said they have not determined a motive.

"I don't think he knew who I was, but he must have seen that I wasn't a threat because, you know, I've only got one arm," said Allen, who lost his left arm in a car accident in 1984.

According to the police re-

port, Hartley was hiding behind a pillar outside the hotel and then ran at Allen, knocking him to the ground. He also attacked a woman who tried to help Allen, but she wasn't seriously injured.

Hartley then ran to another hotel and started breaking car windows until he was stopped by witnesses and police arrived, police said.

Hartley's lawyer, Kevin Gardiner, said in an email that he can't comment on a pending case.

Allen's head struck the ground during the attack, and he and his wife, Lauren Monroe, told "Good Morning America" that they've been focusing on his recovery.

Jilted wife hesitant to give second chance

DEAR ABBY: I married a recovering addict, and for years he did great. We made a lovely home and family together. Then one of my husband's drug buddies (a woman) resurfaced. My husband had an affair, went down that nasty road again and did some very cruel things to destroy our marriage. We have been married 19 years and separated for the last three, with a divorce pending.

My husband now wants to make amends. He's in a rehab program, but I'm reluctant. We have been on a few dates, and I have real concerns about what will happen when we run into the other woman. I asked her at least six times to go away and stay away.

How should I expect him to react when we run into her? She's deeply embedded in his social circle, far more than I ever was because I don't care for the debauchery lifestyle. He promises he has cut ties with everyone in that circle. But I know it's only a matter of time until we run into her.

ANGRY AND HURT IN GEORGIA

DEAR ANGRY: You are rightfully hurt and angry, but if reconciling is going to work out well, it's important you're assured that he isn't still carrying a torch for her. You would be wise (and less confrontational) if you ask your almost-ex-husband how he plans to react should he encounter her, rather

than dictate how he should do it. He's in rehab and trying to rebuild his life after the mess he made of it. I see no reason to create a scene if your paths cross. A courteous hello AND GOODBYE should suffice.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 57-year-old male. I have no children, and I was forced to move back in with my mother to start my life over again. I divorced my wife because she was cheating.

I have a cousin from Alabama who is 30. I love her dearly. She's my favorite cousin, and I have begun having feelings for her. I think it may be my body's way of telling me it wants to procreate and leave a legacy. I feel guilty about these thoughts and feelings. In my heart, I believe they are shameful. These thoughts are something I must take to my grave and never act upon. But the urge is growing stronger and it's becoming a losing battle.

Telling her (or anyone else in my family) my true feelings would be a terrible thing for me to do. Can you please help me rid myself of these feelings for her? I will take any advice into consideration.

ASHAMED IN TENNESSEE

■ ■ ■

DEAR ASHAMED: In some (not all) states, marriage between cousins is legal. Tennessee and Alabama happen to be two of them. Your cousin may be 27 years younger, but at 30,

DEAR ABBY

BY **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



she's a grown woman. Do you have any indication of whether your feelings are reciprocated? Sometimes the feelings we suppress only make them grow stronger. A way to resolve this would be to express them.

If your cousin doesn't share your affection, bear in mind that all women are not cheaters, as your wife was, and start to build a new life while you look for a suitable companion in your community.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

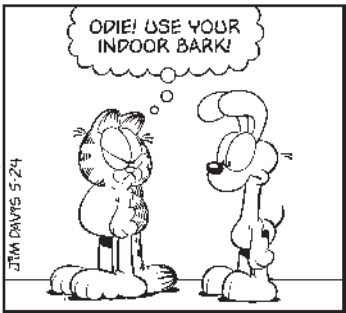
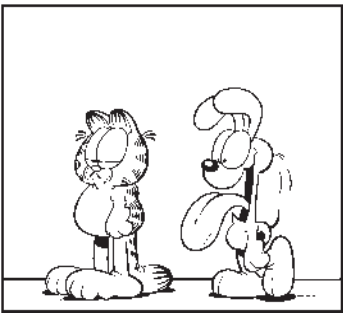
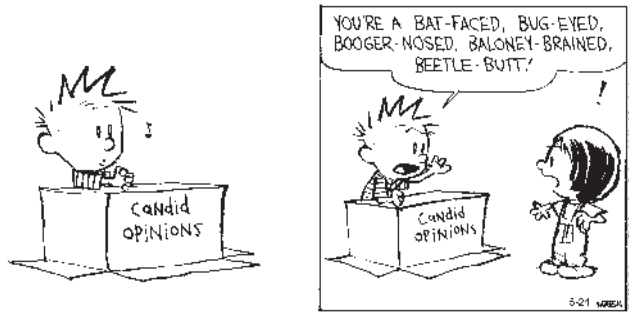
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

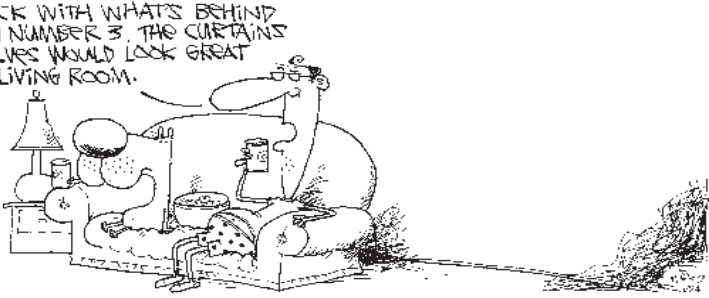
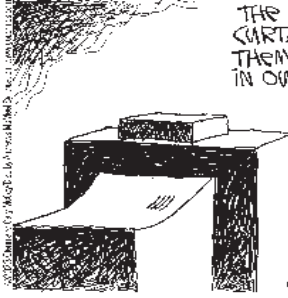
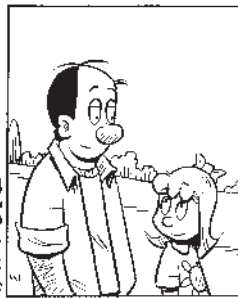


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Upper limit

4 Accomplishes

8 Ale variety

12 Furtive laugh

13 Car bar

14 Throat clearer

15 Hot temper

16 Omelet side dish

18 Hair dryer

20 Luau bowlful

21 "My — are sealed"

24 Maya Angelou piece

28 Believed

32 Roll call reply

33 Mined matter

34 Offered one's seat

36 Sony rival

37 Mend socks

39 Desires

41 Daisy Mae's guy

43 Stead

44 Crony

50 Celebra-tory slaps

55 Bruins legend

56 Hand lotion ingredient

57 Eat in style

58 "30 Rock" role

59 Cat call

60 Long story

61 Tic-tac-toe win

4 Mexican flowers

5 Kitchen gadget brand

6 Shade tree

7 Leak out slowly

8 Diocese part

9 Sashimi fish

10 Writer Harper

11 German river

17 Nemesis

19 Santa's helper

22 Core

23 Pub seating

25 Lowly worker

26 Not pizzicato

27 Once around the sun

28 Kotb of "Today"

29 The "A" of UAE

30 Laura of "Big Little Lies"

31 Pueblo people

35 Type of diving

38 Sister's son

40 "Glee" character

42 U.K. military fliers

45 Pot covers

47 Without help

48 Small combo

49 Rice-shaped pasta

50 Scene stealer

51 — de-France

52 Stickum

53 By means of

54 Chang's brother

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-24

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mark Ballas, 37; John C. Reilly, 58; Priscilla Presley, 78; Bob Dylan, 82.

Happy Birthday: Clear up lingering projects that are holding you back. Finalize courses and conversations that are standing between you and what you are trying to achieve this year. Share your unique input; it will help someone you love see things your way. Cover as much ground as possible, and you'll make a difference and open doors to a bright future. Actions follow thoughts. Your numbers are 9, 17, 26, 33, 40, 44, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refuse to let emotions take you down an emotionally disruptive path. Channel your energy into physical work or challenges that increase your awareness regarding what's possible and how best to get what you want. Use your money to support your goals. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Choose quality over quantity. It's up to you to implement change. Aim to incorporate more stability and security into your everyday routine. A change at home may be disruptive initially, but if you stick to your plan, everything will fall into place. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Push forward with passion. Take notes and learn from experience that preparation is the best way to get what you want. Refuse to let someone take up valuable time best spent on furthering your intentions, not someone else's. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Reach out, volunteer, do your part and connect with people who share your concerns and desire to pitch in and make the world a better place. ★★

Open conversations will raise emotional issues that are costly but fixable. Positive change is heading your way. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on what's important, and refuse to let someone's demands ruin your plans. Make it clear that you must finish one thing before starting another. Don't be afraid to follow the path that beckons you and dismiss the ones that don't. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen and learn. Pay attention to detail and concentrate on what will dictate the most beneficial results. A physical change will make you approachable and open doors that have been out of reach. Love is encouraged, and a kind gesture pays off. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Choose to do things that make you feel inspired and passionate about life, love and happiness. Express your thoughts and feelings and make suggestions, but don't pay for someone else's mistake. Simplicity is the key to finding the perfect resolution. Stick close to home. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Upset and anger won't solve anything, but making a physical move or change will open your eyes to possibilities. Put your heart into making your surroundings fit your needs. Be creative and align yourself with people who share your vision. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your money in a safe place and invest more time upgrading your qualifications and connecting with people who have something to contribute. Turn your attention to improving meaningful relationships. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Set your sights on how best to make your space more accommodating. Clear an area that will encourage you to develop something you want to pursue. Evaluate your earning ability. Romance will change your life. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Everything will seem worse than it is, making it essential to distance yourself from what's happening and consider your options. Don't feel obligated to take on someone else's fight, choices or path to avoid an argument. Do your own thing. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't underestimate what you can do or how you can improve your life. Attach value to your knowledge and skills, see what happens and prepare and market yourself accordingly. Romance is in the stars and will enhance your life. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are generous, helpful and possessive. You are energetic and imaginative.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			7	2	6						
	7	2					1				
9				1				6			
		6						7	3		
1										9	
	2		9		7	6	5	1			
			8	9	2		1	5			
	4					9	8	7			
8	5	9	4	7	1		2				

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	2	9	3	7	4	6	1	8
6	3	8	1	9	5	4	2	7
4	7	1	8	6	2	9	3	5
3	5	4	2	1	9	8	7	6
7	9	6	5	3	8	1	4	2
8	1	2	7	4	6	3	5	9
1	8	3	9	5	7	2	6	4
9	4	7	6	2	1	5	8	3
2	6	5	4	8	3	7	9	1

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/24 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TOM FORD Solution: 7 letters

R	T	I	U	S	T	L	E	B	O	R	C	H	I	D
F	E	A	S	A	I	N	T	L	A	U	R	E	N	T
E	R	D	C	C	S	K	V	E	G	A	N	A	I	P
R	T	A	N	L	C	E	S	B	E	H	R	E	A	L
U	H	U	E	A	O	A	L	W	E	B	S	N	S	A
T	O	A	L	W	X	T	R	Y	Y	A	T	I	A	S
C	M	B	N	E	R	H	L	R	L	S	U	R	S	T
E	A	R	T	D	E	L	E	R	L	R	A	S	I	
T	S	I	E	N	B	E	T	A	S	E	A	E	Y	C
I	C	C	U	G	W	A	E	U	W	K	D	C	S	U
H	D	H	R	E	A	W	G	E	O	A	S	L	O	R
C	R	A	J	O	S	G	Y	S	H	E	T	I	L	A
R	A	R	O	N	S	E	G	S	S	N	O	P	E	T
A	M	D	E	M	U	S	E	U	M	S	O	N	I	E
N	A	M	R	I	A	H	C	S	L	E	B	A	L	D

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Jokic leads Nuggets past Lakers, into their first NBA Finals



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nikola Jokic is a player unlike almost anything the NBA has ever seen, and now he's taking his Denver Nuggets somewhere they've never been.

Jokic had 30 points, 14 rebounds and 13 assists, and the Nuggets advanced to the NBA Finals for the first time in team history Monday night, sweeping the Western Conference finals with a 113-111 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Jamal Murray scored 25 points for the top-seeded Nuggets, who overcame LeBron James' 31-point first half and a 15-point halftime deficit with a tenacious finish in Game 4 to earn their first conference title in their 47 NBA seasons.

"It's incredible," Murray said. "It's a lot of fun. It's surreal. We're going to keep making history, that's the thing. We're going to keep that mindset."

Jokic earned his eighth triple-double of the playoffs by the third quarter, breaking Wilt Chamberlain's 1967 NBA record for triple-doubles in a single postseason. The bulky Serbian center with a point guard's grace also led the Nuggets' gritty defensive effort despite picking up his fifth foul midway through the fourth quarter.

Jokic didn't leave the floor for the final 33 minutes of Game 4 — and when Denver needed a big basket, Jokic delivered that as well. He muscled past Anthony Davis for the game's final points on a layup with 51 seconds to play.

"I think that's why playoffs are so nice and so interesting, because you don't care about how tired you are," Jokic said. "You don't care about min-



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) is defended by Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis (3) in the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Final series Monday, May 22, 2023, in Los Angeles.

utes, fouls, shots, percentage. You just want to win a game. Some plays today we weren't playing good defense sometimes, (but) you can win it in every kind of possible way."

James finished with 40 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists after the highest-scoring postseason half of his career, but even the top scorer in NBA history couldn't keep the deep, dynamic Nuggets from their sixth consecutive victory overall.

James missed two tying shots in the final seconds, with Aaron Gordon getting official credit for blocking his tying try at the buzzer.

The Nuggets will cap their superb season by playing for their first NBA championship. Denver both eliminated the Lakers for the first time in eight playoff meetings and swept a playoff series for the first time, likely earning several days off before the finals.

Unless the Boston Celtics make basketball history by rallying from their 3-0 deficit in the East finals, Denver will host the eighth-seeded Miami Heat to open the NBA Finals, beginning June 1.

"Me and AD were just talking in the locker room (and) we came to the consensus this is one of the best teams, if not

the best team, we've played together for all four years," James said of the Nuggets. "Just well-orchestrated, well put together. They have scoring. They have shooting. They have playmaking. They have smarts. They have length. They have depth. And one thing about their team, when you have a guy like Jokic, who as big as he is but also as cerebral as he is, you can't really make many mistakes versus a guy like that."

The Lakers erased a seven-point deficit and tied it with five minutes to play, but Jokic hit a 25-foot fallaway 3-pointer — the kind of ridiculously

impressive shot for a big man that Jokic makes routinely. After Davis hit two free throws to tie it with 1:13 left, Jokic put the Nuggets ahead again.

James then badly missed a strange fallaway jumper with 26 seconds left. Murray missed a turnaround to give the Lakers one last chance, but James' drive at the buzzer was thwarted by Murray and Gordon, who scored 22 points.

"For that game to go down to the wire and for the ball to be in LeBron James' hands, those seconds were an eternity," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "When the buzzer went off, it was almost sur-

real for a second. Couldn't be more proud of this group."

James scored 21 points in the first quarter and worked desperately to keep the Lakers competitive in the final game of his 20th NBA season. But the Lakers couldn't even force a Game 5, with an apparently exhausted Davis scoring 10 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and adding 14 rebounds.

Austin Reaves scored 17 points for the Lakers, who were swept in a playoff series for the 11th time in team history, including nine best-of-seven series.

The loss ended seventh-seeded Los Angeles' incredible turnaround after starting the season 2-10 under new coach Darvin Ham. After bolstering their roster at the trade deadline and surging into the postseason with two months of strong play, the Lakers then knocked off second-seeded Memphis and eliminated defending champion Golden State to stir their worldwide fans' hopes for one of the most unlikely championship runs in NBA history.

"Nothing but love and respect for the Denver Nuggets," Ham said. "Love the way they play and what they are about. We also saw ways that ... I think we have an opportunity to do something special here, also, and we've just got to build off of this."

Facing elimination for the first time in their remarkable playoff run, the Lakers took a 73-58 halftime lead. After tying his playoff career high for points in a quarter in his record 282nd postseason game, James matched his career high for points in any first half — but the Nuggets responded with a 36-16 third quarter.

MIAMI (AP)—Blown out in Game 3, facing elimination in Game 4, tasked with engineering the sort of comeback that no team in their league has ever pulled off before.

This may sound familiar to Boston fans.

Yes, what the Red Sox did to the New York Yankees in 2004 was discussed around the Boston Celtics on Monday. A day after a debacle in Miami to fall into a 3-0 deficit in these Eastern Conference finals—"embarrassing," Boston forward Jaylen Brown said—the Celtics will try to extend the series and at least delay a Heat celebration in Game 4 on Tuesday night.

"We still believe we're the better team," Celtics guard Malcolm Brogdon said Monday. "We have not played like it in any of the three games. But, you know, there is always a first."

No NBA team has rallied from a 3-0 deficit to win a se-

Celtics look to pull off impossible, as Heat stand on brink of NBA Finals

ries; it's happened only once in Major League Baseball, when the Red Sox shook off a 19-8 drubbing in Game 3 to win four straight and top the Yankees in that 2004 AL championship series.

Of course, there had never been a No. 8 seed that won an NBA playoff game by 26 points, either—until Miami rolled its way to a 128-102 cakewalk in Game 3. It led to All-Star Game MVP Jayson Tatum saying Boston needs to show some pride, veteran big man Al Horford calling upon the Celtics to stay together and first-year coach Joe Mazzulla taking the blame as speculation about his future only gets louder and louder.

"We didn't play well at all," Tatum said. "Obviously, by the score, it showed."

Meanwhile, a Heat win on Tuesday would send Miami to

the NBA Finals for the seventh time since 2006 — and give the team more than a week to rest before the series opens on June 1. The Denver Nuggets won the Western Conference title on Monday night, sweeping LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers.

If Miami wins the East, Denver will have home-court advantage in the finals. If Boston rallies, the Celtics would have the home-court edge.

Before all that, there's a Game 4 in Miami, and that has Heat coach Erik Spoelstra's full attention.

"We can expect just a great, competitive game," Spoelstra said. "Boston has great pride. They'll bring it. And you want to embrace it. You don't want to get ahead of yourself and think about anything else other than embracing the competition. This is what you want. You

want to be in the Eastern Conference finals in a really competitive game with a chance to finish and close out."

Thing is, that was also the thinking going into Game 3. After dropping the first two games at home, conventional wisdom would suggest that Boston would have arrived Sunday night loaded up for their best effort.

It wasn't even close.

Boston trailed by as many as 33 in Game 3—the second-biggest deficit the Celtics faced this season. They trailed Oklahoma City by 37 on Jan. 3, a game where the Thunder scored 88 points in the middle two quarters on the way to a 150-117 romp. The Celtics responded from that defeat by winning their next nine games.

"Faith is the most important thing in the world," Mazzulla said.

The Heat would say the same. They're trying to join the 1999 New York Knicks as the only No. 8 seeds to reach the NBA Finals, and they're doing so after nearly missing the playoffs altogether.

They know the chance they have Tuesday. They watched Boston celebrate in front of Heat fans last year in Game 7 of the East finals. They have an opportunity to make the Celtics watch them celebrate winning the East this time around.

"We have a great opportunity ahead of us," Heat center Bam Adebayo said.

3-0, 0-3

The Heat are up 3-0 in a series for the 10th time, including one sweep of a best-of-five in 2000. In the eight previous best-of-seven instances where Miami has led 3-0, the Heat have gone 5-3 in Game

4 and never been extended past Game 5.

Boston is down 0-3 in a series for the eighth time, including one best-of-five sweep defeat. The Celtics forced one of those best-of-seven deficits to six games, one to five games and got swept on the other four occasions.

LOVE UPDATE

Heat forward Kevin Love has a strained muscle in his lower left leg and is probable for Game 4. He got hurt in the first quarter of Game 3. "Felt like a muscle cramp," Love said, adding that if Miami's lead hadn't been so sizable that he would have lobbied to return to Sunday's game.

WELL RESTED

Jimmy Butler was needed for only 31 minutes in Game 3, after he averaged almost 42 minutes in his last nine playoff appearances for Miami.

Rays hit 3 more HRs in 6-4 win over sliding Blue Jays



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—After hitting 139 homers last season, the Tampa Bay Rays could blow past that total before this year's All-Star break.

Jose Siri, Randy Arozaena and Luke Raley homered, and the major league-leading Rays beat the sliding Toronto Blue Jays 6-4 on Monday night.

Tampa Bay (35-14) leads the major leagues with 94 home runs. The Rays opened a three-game lead over Baltimore in the AL East.

"The team that we have, we have a team that can run, that can field, that can hit," Siri said through a translator. "It doesn't matter what pitcher is up there, we feel confident in our ability to hit."

After opener Trevor Kelley pitched two scoreless innings, Josh Fleming (1-0) allowed two runs and five hits over the next six as the Rays improved to 22-4 at home.

Tampa Bay is the ninth team since 1901 win 22 of its first 26 home games.

The announced crowd at Tropicana Field was a season-low 8,857. Tampa Bay started the day averaging 18,045, 10th in the American League.

Toronto's Chris Bassitt (5-3) pitched 28 consecutive scoreless inning before the Rays scored three times in the second. He allowed six runs—two earned—and seven hits over 6 1/3 innings.

Whit Merrifield and Daulton Varsho homered for the Blue Jays (25-23), who have lost seven of eight and dropped 9 1/2 games behind Tampa Bay.

Varsho hit a solo homer in the ninth against Zack Littell, who was replaced by Pete Fairbanks with two on and one out. Fairbanks allowed a two-out RBI single to pinch-hitter Brandon Belt and loaded the bases with a walk George Springer before getting a comebacker from Bo Bichette for his fifth save.

"It's not a lack of effort," Toronto manager John Schneider said. "These guys want it, and they're battling. You look at the ninth inning, there's no quit. That's what gives you a lot of confidence going forward."

DODGERS 8, BRAVES 6

ATLANTA (AP)—Freddie Freeman's three-run homer in the fifth inning gave Los Angeles the lead, J.D. Martinez had four hits, including two homers, and the Dodgers rallied to beat Atlanta.

The Dodgers, who trailed 4-0 in the first, won the opener of a three-game series between the top two teams in the National League. Free-



Tampa Bay Rays' Isaac Paredes, left, and teammates congratulate Luke Raley, center, after his solo home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game Monday, May 22, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

man, a longtime Braves star, made the most of his second Atlanta homecoming with three hits to join Martinez in leading the comeback.

Dodgers rookie Gavin Stone allowed five runs on five hits and five walks in four innings in his second start for Los Angeles.

Charlie Morton (5-4) couldn't hold the early lead, allowing six runs in five innings. Freeman's three-run homer off Morton gave the Dodgers a 6-4 lead.

Evan Phillips (1-0) threw a scoreless fifth. Brusdar Graterol got four outs for his third save.

ANGELS 2, RED SOX 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mickey Moniak homered in the eighth inning and Los Angeles won for the fourth time in five games.

Moniak drove a changeup from Kutter Crawford (1-2) over the wall in the right field to lead off the eighth.

Masataka Yoshida had two hits and an RBI for the Red Sox, who have dropped two straight after winning four in a row.

Chase Silseth (1-1) got the win, striking out two in two scoreless innings.

PIRATES 6, RANGERS 4

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Tucupita Marcano hit his first career grand slam, rookie Luis Ortiz pitched into the eighth inning and earned his first major league victory and Pittsburgh beat AL West-leading Texas.

Ortiz (1-2) allowed two runs and five hits in 7 2/3 innings for the win in his eighth career start. The 24-year-old right-hander struck out four and walked two in a 93-pitch effort.

Marcano's slam to center field off Joe Barlow capped

a five-run seventh inning and put the Pirates ahead 6-1.

Earlier in the inning, Carlos Santana singled to drive in Bryan Reynolds with the go-ahead run with two outs on a play that was overturned after a video review. Reynolds was originally called out on right fielder Adolis Garcia's throw to home plate, a play that would have ended the inning.

Josh Sborz (1-2) allowed three runs in one inning of relief and took the loss.

Texas rookie Josh Jung hit a two-run homer—his 10th of the season—off closer David Bednar in the ninth inning, pulling the Rangers within 6-4. Bednar then retired the final two batters.

GUARDIANS 3, WHITE SOX 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Rookie Hunter Gaddis pitched six strong innings for his first major league win and struggling Cleveland catcher Mike Zunino connected for a two-run homer.

Gaddis (1-1) was recalled from Triple-A Columbus and gave the Guardians a badly needed quality start after they were swept over the weekend in New York. He gave up just two hits, combining with four relievers on a three-hitter.

Zunino hit his third homer—first since April 28—in the seventh off Gregory Santos. Sam Hentges, Nick Sandlin and Trevor Stephan combined for two scoreless innings before Emmanuel Clase worked a perfect ninth for his 16th save in 21 chances.

The Guardians scored their first run in the second on a wild pitch by Jesse Scholtens (0-2).

REDS 6, CARDINALS 5, 10 INNINGS

CINCINNATI (AP)—Nick Senzel hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning and Cincinnati snapped a four-game

losing streak.

Spencer Steer launched an early two-run homer and scored the winning run for the Reds. Ian Gibaut (4-1) struck out two in a hitless 10th to keep it tied.

Paul DeJong homered and drove in four runs for the Cardinals, who had won 11 of 14 since a 10-24 start.

St. Louis had the bases loaded in the ninth and two runners aboard in the 10th, but failed to score.

Steer began the bottom of the 10th as the automatic runner at second base. He advanced to third on a wild pitch by Ryan Helsley (2-3) and scored on Senzel's deep fly to right field.

TIGERS 8, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Javier Báez hit a bases-clearing double in the 10th inning for his third hit of the night to lift Detroit.

Matt Vierling had three hits, including a home run, and four RBIs for the Tigers. Alex Lange (2-0) earned the victory with two hitless innings of relief. Jose Cisnero picked up his first save.

Scott Barlow (1-3) allowed Báez's winning hit and took the loss.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, PHILLIES 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Lourdes Gurriel Jr. extended the longest active hitting streak in the majors to 15 games with a homer, double and two RBIs to lead Arizona.

Pavin Smith also homered for the Diamondbacks, who have won eight of their last 10 games.

Kyle Schwarber and Bryson Stott hit solo homers for the Phillies, who have lost six of their last eight games.

Gurriel went 4 for 4 and improved his average to .321. During his hitting streak, Gur-

riel has a .416 average (25 for 60) with six doubles, seven homers and 14 RBIs.

Zack Wheeler (3-4) was slowed by a fielding error by Stott on a possible double play ball in the second. It proved costly when Geraldo Perdomo doubled into the right field corner, scoring two runs.

Schwarber and Stott cut the deficit to one run with solo homers in the fourth inning off Diamondbacks left-hander Tommy Henry (2-1). Smith answered in the fifth with a leadoff solo shot off Wheeler.

ROCKIES 5, MARLINS 3

DENVER (AP)—Eliás Díaz homered and doubled to drive in two runs and Jurickson Profar doubled twice to extend his on-base streak to 30 games and drive in another pair to lead Colorado.

Bryan De La Cruz had four hits for the Marlins, scoring twice and Jacob Stallings had two RBIs on an infield force play and a single.

With the score tied 2-all going into the bottom of the sixth inning, Díaz connected for his fourth home run, driving an offering from Edward Cabrera (3-4) into the left field bleachers. Profar, whose on-base streak is the longest active streak in the majors, added a two-run double in the bottom of the seventh.

Pierce Johnson got three outs for his ninth save and Jake Bird (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings of hitless relief for the victory.

GIANTS 4, TWINS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Michael Conforto hit a three-run homer and the first four San Francisco batters scored en route to their sixth win in seven games.

Lamonte Wade Jr. walked on eight pitches and Mike Yastrzemski on five, and J.D.

Davis doubled on the 15th pitch from Bailey Ober (3-1) for the go-ahead run. Conforto hit a belt-high 1-0 fastball into the visitors bullpen in left-center for his ninth home run this season.

Sean Manaea (2-2) struck out eight in 3 2/3 scoreless innings in relief of opener John Brebbia, allowing three hits and three walks. Tristan Beck relieved with runners on second and third and induced Byron Buxton's inning-ending groundout in the fifth.

Scott Alexander struck out the side in the ninth around a walk and a hit batter to get his first save this year.

MARINERS 11, ATHLETICS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Jarred Kelenic hit his 10th homer of the season and Luis Castillo pitched six scoreless innings for Seattle.

Kelenic also singled twice and had three RBIs. Jose Caballero launched a three-run homer and Julio Rodríguez had three hits, including two doubles, and scored three times as the Mariners matched a season high for runs.

Castillo (3-2) snapped a two-start losing streak and surpassed 1,000 strikeouts for his career. The right-hander had eight strikeouts and two walks against Oakland, which has lost five in a row and eight of nine.

Seattle led from the start, with Kelenic hitting a two-run homer in the first inning off Kyle Muller (1-4). Caballero followed with a three-run shot in the second to give the Mariners a quick 5-0 lead.

The A's avoided being shut out as Brent Rooker and Seth Brown had run-scoring groundouts in the eighth.

ASTROS 12, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Yordan Alvarez had a grand slam among his two homers and Houston won its eighth straight.

Alvarez hit a solo shot off Corbin Burnes in the fifth inning and capped a five-run outburst in the sixth with a grand slam off Hoby Milner. Alvarez has 12 homers this season.

Corey Julks, Martín Maldonado and Mauricio Dubón also homered against Burnes (4-4), who allowed four homers in a game for the first time in his career.

The Astros had season highs with 12 runs, 15 hits and five homers. Alvarez went 3 for 4 with five RBIs, and Julks was 3 of 5 with three RBIs.

Astros starter Cristian Javier (4-1) struck out five and allowed four hits, one run and one walk in six innings.

All eyes on rookie QBs and Aaron Rodgers as NFL teams kick off practices

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Rookie quarterbacks will get much of the attention this week when most NFL teams hit the field for non-contact practices.

Twenty teams kicked off their voluntary organized team activities on Monday and 10 more will do so on Tuesday. Only the defending NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles and the AFC runner-up Cincinnati Bengals aren't holding workouts this week.

Teams are allowed, per the collective bargaining agreement, to hold 10 days of practices without pads and no live contact over a four-week span. They can run 7-on-7, 9-on-7 and 11-on-11 drills.

Aaron Rodgers, who didn't participate in some of these offseason workouts the past few seasons with the Green Bay Packers, was on the field with his new team. Wearing a green New York Jets helmet, black shorts and a red, No. 8 practice jersey, Rodgers pump-faked on one play and scrambled for a TD, holding both his hands in the air to signal a score.

Lamar Jackson, who signed a five-year, \$260 million contract extension earlier this month, was absent from Baltimore's session on Monday.

Bryce Young, the No. 1 overall pick, impressed coach Frank Reich at Carolina's first practice.

"Just complete command, control, poise," Reich said after the Panthers held Mon-



New York Jets' quarterback Aaron Rodgers smiles during an NFL football news conference at the Jets' training facility in Florham Park, N.J., Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

day's workout. "You could tell the way he was seeing it, the way he was working through progressions, accuracy in the throw, ball placement of the throw, it was all very good."

Though it's early and there's a long way to go before training camp, all eyes will be on Young, Houston's C.J. Stroud and Indianapolis' Anthony Richardson this week.

Here are some of the top story lines to follow:

ROOKIE QBS: Young, Stroud and Richardson, who were among the top picks in the draft, are getting acclimated to life in the NFL while also learning new offenses and shouldering the burden of high expectations.

AARON RODGERS: Rodgers flashed a big smile as he ran into the end zone on his TD scramble in a video that had Jets fans buzzing on Monday. His attendance is a big deal for a franchise desperate for a turnaround. Rodgers is already familiar with offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett's system from their time together in Green Bay. But the four-time NFL MVP has been spending time at the Jets'

facility since his arrival and it should help him build chemistry with his new teammates.

LAMAR JACKSON: Todd Monken is Baltimore's new offensive coordinator, so the Ravens would prefer the NFL's highest-paid quarterback shows up to learn the nuances and work with his teammates. However, new Ravens wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., fellow wideout Rashod Bateman, tight end Mark Andrews and running backs J.K. Dobbins and Gus Edwards weren't in attendance on the first day, either. Plenty of starting players across the league prefer to work out on their own instead of attending voluntary practices and many often skip a few days until mandatory minicamp.

KEEPING

From Page 20

the runway even though the winds were going high. This is no different. I just go out and run. Whenever the wind looks like it at its lowest I still run outside," he said.

The current No. 1 run streak holder on Saipan—at a mind-blowing 2,321 days—said that he always runs outdoors except when the government put the whole island on lockdown during the start of COVID-19.

"I've only ran inside under

lockdown orders. Anything else I'll take my chance with Mother Nature. I'll run in my front yard whenever the wind looks doable. I am never running inside unless it's strict lockdown orders like COVID-19," he said.

Saipan International School headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder, who holds the second longest streak at 877 days, said he always runs come hell or high water.

"I will go out and run in inclement weather. But even a really bad typhoon won't last an entire 24-hour period. So, I just choose a time that

makes sense to run and run. Rain or shine. Healthy or sick. For Mawar, I will run this afternoon after school lets out. Then I will probably run in the neighborhood tomorrow morning. But if the weather is really bad, I will wait until evening/night to run," he said.

Running in bad weather actually isn't the biggest stumbling block to keeping his streak alive.

"My biggest challenge this year won't be the storm but will be getting my mile in on a dive boat. Luckily my watch will keep track of the estimated distance as I jog in place on the

boat," said Snyder.

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin DeLeon Guerrero said it's not hard to keep his streak because it's now part of his daily morning routine, which he's been doing the past 509 days now.

"I maintained my streak because it's how I start each and every day. I find it's the best way to prepare for the day because, as I run, I pray, I reflect, and I plan. It's also when I am most creative. Indeed, many ideas for plays, films, and speeches were conceived during my runs. As for running during Mawar,

as someone who went to college in the Pacific Northwest, I love running in the rain. So, rain or shine, there I go running," he said.

Dandan Middle School teacher Simon Necesito, who is on Day 507 of his streak journey, said it just takes some advance planning to make sure a run streak stays alive.

"Funny enough I just did a 4-mile run this morning. Amidst the incoming storm I realize that if ever I am unable to complete it if the storm intensifies, I would do at least a mile inside of my house. Probably run circles around my living room if push comes to shove. I've ran through three fevers and this is a challenge I am willing to take head on to keep my running streak alive," he said.

Majority of them also agree that running on a treadmill to keep the run streak going isn't faux pax among run streak circles.

"Treadmill counts. A run is a run. You can run in place

if you memorized how many steps your mile is with a step counter or duration. I thought about getting a treadmill at home but it's useless when storms hit since power will be knocked out. Might as well run in place or on the terrace. Now a manual treadmill I would invest in for the sole purpose of running inside during a storm," said Dela Cruz.

For Snyder, hopping on a treadmill is certainly an easy option for streak runners.

"People in very snowy places or where there are dangerous temperatures have to use them a lot. For those without treadmills, my advice is to plan your runs well the next couple of days. The point of Mawar's nearest approach will be around noon tomorrow. Run early. It will be windy and wet but that can't stop a streak runner!" he said.

Necesito said he doesn't mind using a treadmill, "but I don't have a treadmill at home. Also Latte Gym is closed at the moment."

POWER

From Page 20

got it back in the end. It was a good experience."

As for the chemistry of the boys who have never played together but have played against each other during their high school volleyball season, he said "we all knew each others' playing style because we played throughout the season, so that really helped. But our chemistry build as we played together more. Especially in the final game, you could feel in each set the chemistry was getting better. I think our team had a little bit better chemistry than the other team so I think that helped us win."

Eno said "the league was great. It's what I assumed it would be. All these boys are incredibly talented and I just wanted them to have fun and be able to play in a competitive match."

About her team, she said "I think that one advantage that my group of All-Stars has is they're a very positive, bubbly, and energetic crew. Once I was able to tell them that that was their advantage, they used it and they brought the energy and excitement. Their chemistry



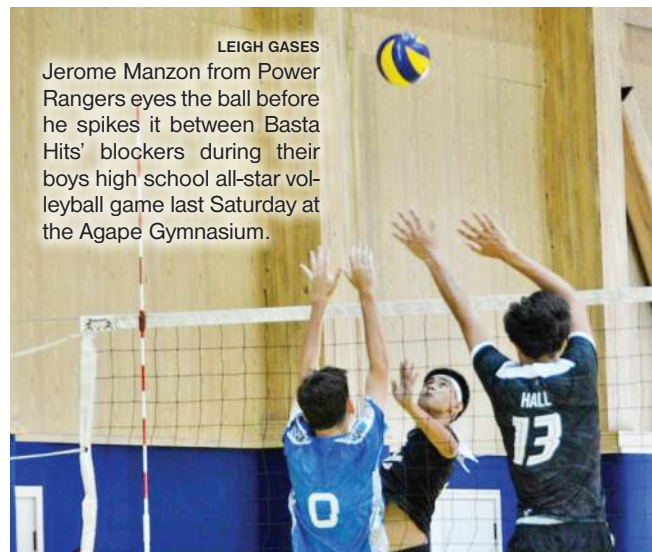
The boys of the high school All-Star volleyball game pose for a photo with their coaches Stacy Eno, front left, and Shawn Davis, back, seventh from right, after their all-star volleyball game last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

and camaraderie was really great too."

Davis said "I hope the girls are ready, because the high school girls are next! And they need to bring it just like the boys did—that's what we like to see."

She thanked everyone that came out to help including Agape Christian School's En Yang Pang and Kok H. Pang for the use of their gym, Marianas High School, Ryutaro Litulumar, Marc Danga, and Mike Omar.

The purpose of the program was to highlight the skills that exist on each team beyond the first and second place teams at the end of the



season. The selected players have trained with a cast of coaches for a period of six

training sessions totaling 14 hours and were randomly selected into the two teams.

GAMES

From Page 20

Martech-Ol'Aces and New Changming Market and Save More versus Team Marianas were postponed.

The games are moved to tomorrow, Thursday, May 25, or depending on the storm's aftermath, said Marlene Lumabi, Northern Marianas Islands Basketball Federation director and league commissioner.

Thursday's set of games will be moved to Friday, May 26. Games are played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

For soccer, the Northern Marianas Football Federation said in an email that it is canceling its 2023 Dove Women's League: Premiere

games today. Games are played at the Northern Marianas Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

They will also cancel today and Friday's U15 Boys tryouts. The first tryout date will be on Saturday, May 27, instead.

For athletics, the Northern Marianas Athletics Open Track Meet set for Thursday and Friday is most likely postponed, said NMA general secretary Robin Sapong.

Postponed games will be rescheduled at a later date.

As for weekend sporting events such as the Marianas Skate Series scheduled for Saturday, May 27, organizer David Cabrera said it's still a go.

The Run Saipan Mangrove 5K is also still set for Saturday at 6am.



Jokic leads Nuggets past Lakers, into their first NBA Finals.
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Saipan Tribune Sports

All eyes on rookie QBs and Aaron Rodgers as NFL teams kick off practices.
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Keeping run streaks alive during a storm



From left, Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Ron Snyder, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and Simon Necesito pose after Deleon Guerrero completed his one-year run streak in Marpi last Dec. 31. Also in photo is Snyder's dog Gilligan.

JON SUGUTAN

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run streaks don't last forever but streakers be damned if a little rain and some silly wind would put a halt to their daily ritual.

With Typhoon Mawar continuing its path to the Marianas, local streakers said they won't let a Category 4 typhoon end their run streaks.

These rabid runners continue their obsession through travel days by running in airport lounges and one even kept his streak during the birth of his first child. Heck, Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said

Mawar will be peanuts considering he kept his streak during Super Typhoon Yutu and before that Typhoon Mangkut.



"For Yutu I still ran when it was Condition 1. During Mangkut I was on duty at the airport and I still ran inside the access way of our station to

See KEEPING on Page 19

Games postponed this week because of Typhoon Mawar



LEIGH GASES

Team Marianas' Jack Aranda, right, jumps for the rebound against Save More during their first playoff game of the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The ongoing sports leagues in the CNMI have canceled their games starting yesterday due to Typhoon Mawar.

For safety of the players, officials, and audience, the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 has decided to postpone their games last night and tonight, said SBL president Jay San-

tos. Games are played at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The postponed games for yesterday are the Bandits versus the Junior Nationals; today's game is supposed to be between the Cardinals and Falcons.

As for the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League playoffs, yesterday's games between

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Power Rangers win All Star v-ball game

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Go, go, Power Rangers! And that's what they did during the boys volleyball all-star best-of-five game last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

The Power Rangers mightily morphed and won three out of five sets against Basta Hit.

It seemed to be a sweep of the game as the Power Rangers overpowered Basta Hit and took the first two sets—25-17, 25-20.

The Power Rangers assembled into one entity as they moved and jumped through the court—blocking plays at the net, and placing untouchable kills—thanks to opposite hitter Jerome Manzon and Dylan Mister.

Then, Basta Hit came back and grabbed the third set, 25-16 to stay alive.

A series of well-placed overhead serves by Basta Hit's Sui Yi and Minsoo Kwon faltered Power Rangers' defense and gave Basta Hit's hitters and libero the perfect positioning to strike their kills and block the net.

The Power Rangers could not place their returns prop-

erly and overshot on a few that wound up out of bounds. Some mistakes on their end were costly as Basta Hit proved to be the better team this time around.

However, in the fourth set, Power Rangers regrouped and pulled out all the stops to ensure they get the win. Team captain Mister set them up in the last moments of the game with his serves and kills by Omari Joab.

Basta Hit's defense crumbled when they couldn't catch up to the speed at which Power Rangers returned the ball and the set and game went to the Power Rangers, 25-22.

The Power Rangers team included Kyle Kramer from Saipan International School, Jerome Manzon from Marianas High School, Daniel Nam from SIS, Akira Ota from Grace Christian Academy, Jiahao Chen from Saipan Southern High School, Earle "Gabby" San Nicolas from Mount Carmel School, Brandon Lee from MCS, Anthony Kubo from Kagman High School, Dylan Mister from MHS, Omari Joab from SIS, and Kyle Moon from GCA. Caleb Cui from Agape Christian School was injured and Jiahao Yang from GCA was off-

island at the time. The team was coached by SIS teacher and coach Stacy Eno.

Team Basta Hit consisted of John Justo from MHS, Allen Luo from ACS, Sui Yi from GCA, Jin Tao from SSHS, Hudson Tan from ACS, Lowell Lumauag from MHS, Vince Guilas from SSHS, Will Sosa from SIS, Franz Abadilla from SSHS, Jasper Hall from MCS, Minsoo Kwon from MHS, Mokyan Kim from MHS was injured and David Zhao from ACS was off is-

land. The team was coached by NMIVA board member and SSHS coach Shawn Davis.

Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos High School players Landen Atalig, Brylle Reyel, and Rainier Ruiz could not make it to the game.

Mister said after the game, "the competition was really fun. The first two sets, we had it but in the third set, the other team started to play really well and picked up their pace. But in the fourth and last set, they were also playing well, but we

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LEIGH GASES

Power Rangers' Dylan Mister strikes a kill between Basta Hits' blockers during their boys high school All-Star game last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.